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THE SECOND ORADEA ISSUE

Eng. LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel.

Fig. 1. ESSAYS

According to the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74 (page 507), the second issue of Oradea, which appeared March 7, 1945, was lithographed on unwatermarked, colored paper, perforated 10½ and imperforate. The size of the design is 21½ x 28½ mm. There are three different designs with a uniform text reading; "DIRECTIUNEA POSTELOR ORADEA - NAGYVARADI POSTA IGAZGATOSAG" (Directorate of Posts, Oradea).

The printing was done in 2 operations: first the design, then the value. Therefore, the value is sometimes a shade darker than the rest of the stamp.

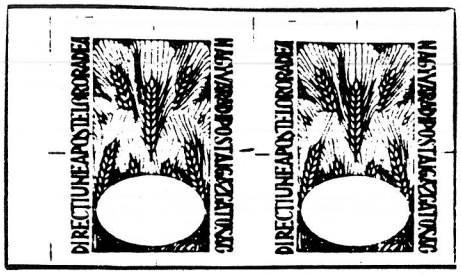
There are 15 monocolor (perforated and imperforate) and one bicolor value (only imperforate) as follows:
10 f. dark brown on brown paper
20 f. ultramarine on blue paper
30 f. brown on orange paper
40 f. violet on light violet paper
50 f. dark brown on green paper
60 f. red on rose paper
70 f. green on light violet paper
80 f. red on orange paper
1 P. carmine on white paper
1.50 P. red on green paper
2 P. light brown on yellowish paper
3 P. grey on rose paper
5 P. olive on blue paper
10 P. violet on orange paper
20 P. green on green paper
10 f. dark brown and red on brown paper.
20 P. green on green paper
and
10 f. dark brown and red on brown paper.

Recorded varieties are:
10 f. printing visible on the back,
70 f. designer's name (MIKES) retouched and tilted to right (position 25 of each half sheet pane),
1 P. on thin paper,
1 P. on thick, yellowish paper.

All were printed in two panes of 60 (6 x 10) with gutter pairs in the center, with 2,400 complete sets printed, but only 1,200 of the bicolored 10 f. The 10, 20, 30, 50 f., 1, 1.50, 2 and 3 P. perforated stamps were printed in larger quantities (some of them up to 500,000) and were sold until the end of April 1945 at the post offices (in Oradea, Satu Mare, Bihor, etc.) for postal usage. Complete sets were sold at the Oradea philatelic counter giving one bicolored 10 f. stamp with every 2 perforated and 2 imperforate sets.

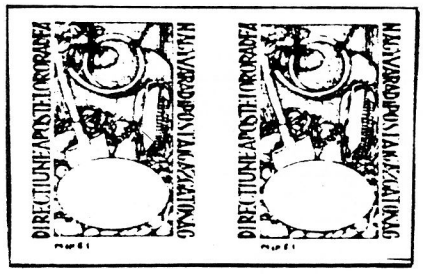
Furthermore, color proofs exist on ungummed, (grey) white paper, for all values (Fig. 1) except the 40 f., 60 f., 1 P. and the bicolored 10 f., (120 for each stamp, except the 1.50 P. for which 240 proofs - 2 double panes - were made), as well as essays without denominations (Fig. 2), and proofs with the denomination doubly printed (Fig. 3).

Besides these essays and proofs, other types exist in very small quantities, probably made for pure typographical reasons. In addition to the above, already



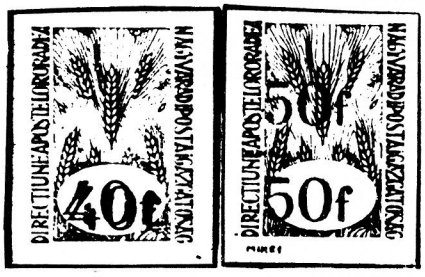
Black, violet, brown.

Light red

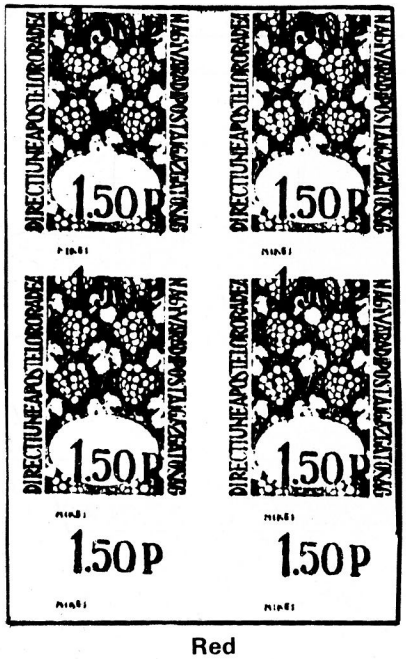


Light brown

Fig. 2. ESSAYS WITHOUT DENOMINATION.



Violet Brown



Red

Fig. 3. DOUBLE DENOMINATION.

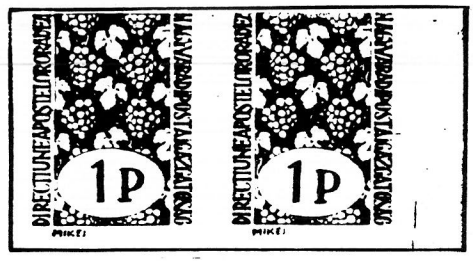


Fig. 4. Black on yellow paper.

Fig. 5. PROOF. BLACK ON LIGHT GREY PAPER.

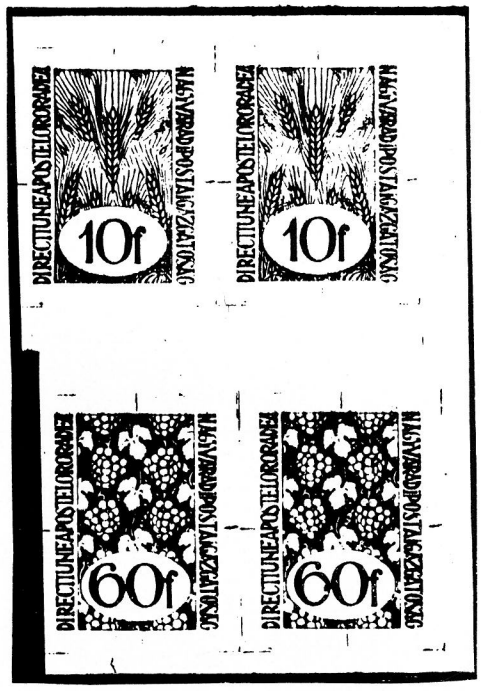


Fig. 6. COMBINATION PROOF.

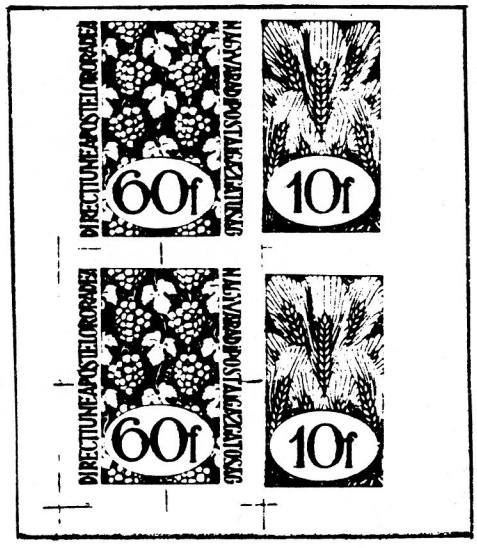


Fig. 7. COMBINATION PROOF.

described in the Romanian Catalogue, some of these are herewith illustrated:

Fig. 4 shows the 1 P. proof. In black, it is printed on a semi-thick cardboard, yellow surface-colored paper.

Fig. 5 shows the 2 P. proof. It is black on light grey paper.

Fig. 6 presents a combination 10 f. and 60 f. proof, printed on the same sheet. They are black on light grey paper. Probably each row of 10 f. is followed by a row of 60 f. proofs.

Fig. 7 presents another combination 10 f. and 60 f. proof. They are gold on grey paper. While, probably each column of 60 f. is followed by a column of 10 f. proofs, these differ in that on the 10 f. proof the bilingual text is missing, having only the center design with the denomination.

On the proofs presented in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, and to some extent on the essays illustrated in Fig. 2, markings designating the margins, the frame and the center can be seen.

An error exists, consisting of a corner block of four stamps of 10 f. printed over a folded corner, in such a manner that what is missing on the front side is printed on the reverse.

HOW DID PRINCE CAROL'S APRIL 1, 1869, LETTERS REACH GERMANY?

Gabriel Sassower

In the preambles to his informative article about the three lower values of the 1869 "international issue" (Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 2, 1980), Dr. L.N. Cristea tells us that on 1 April 1869, the day the said issue came into use, Prince Carol himself posted at the Central Post Office in Bucharest the first ordinary and the first registered letters, addressed to his family in Germany; in continuation, the author says: "It remains to be discovered how these letters reached their destination in Bavaria, given the fact that the convention with the "German Confederation" did not come into force until July 1, 1869..." To start with, although immaterial this is incorrect in the sense that the convention was with the North German Confederation, which did not include the postal services of Bavaria anyway; secondly, the solution of the problem is very simple, may I say and it does result from the postal convention between, I quote, "...the Government of his Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty and the government of His Highness the Prince of the United Principalities", being, of course, the well known convention with Austria-Hungary, signed at Vienna on 24 July 1868 and operative from 1 April 1869. Once a convention had been established with a neighbouring country, in this case Austria-Hungary, the gap was opened for international mail, in the sense that the partner to the agreement acted as an intermediary,

in crude commercial language the latter "re-selling" the piece of mail to its respective partners and so on. There are provisions in the said convention regarding mail to be sent or received from third parties, as for instance in Articals 28, 29, 30, 43, 44. Moreover, Article 21 clearly states that mail to and from the German states should be treated in every respect as mail exchanged between the contracting administrations, i.e. United Principalities and Austria-Hungary (Fig. 1).

Although the aforesaid fully answers the question posed in the title of this article, I would like to enlarge somewhat on the subject, generally. Fellow collectors interested in postal history on a wider basis, are very much aware of the complex situation existing before the General Postal Union (the original name of the Universal Postal Union) came into being, or, more precisely, before the treaty was put into effect on 1 July 1875. Prior to this date, countries used to enter into bilateral postal conventions, as found necessary and so, during the pre-UPU period, Romania had four such agreements, with Austria-Hungary, the North German Confederation, Serbia and Russia; for comparison, Great Britain had twelve agreements by 1874. Of course, as mentioned above in connection with the convention between the Principalities and Austria-Hungary, the system enabled mail exchanges to take place not only between the directly contracting countries, but also with third parties; I would remind that letters circulated during the period 1 April 1869 (inauguration of international mail links of Romania) to 30 June 1875 (last pre-UPU day) between Romania and, for instance, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, United States - despite the fact the Romania did not have postal agreements with these countries.

A direct result from this complicated state of affairs was the possibility of sending mail via a number of routes, often at varying rates of charge; thus, for example, the British Postal Guide for the quarter April, May, June 1869, lists three alternatives for sending mail from Britain to Bucharest: via Belgium (daily, Sunday excepted), via France and Vienna (daily, Sunday excepted) and via France and the Danube (Wednesday and Saturday in summer), the cheapest rate being via Belgium. To make matters worse, certain countries used different weight steps. The complexity of accounting between various postal authorities was, obviously, considerable, the difficulties increased in the cases of unprepaid mail and reached their peak, I imagine, when letters were insufficiently prepaid. This chaotic situation is illustrated by the underpaid cover shown in Fig. 2, sent in February 1875 from London to Bucharest; then, as now, a sizeable quantity of mental energy must have been spent in working out the dues and rates (and, as a friend of mine was saying, all this for 55 bani!). The creation of the UPU remedied this confusion at a pen stroke, so to speak.

Article 21.

Les Administrations contractantes pourront se livrer réciproquement à découvert des lettres, des échantillons de marchandises et des imprimés de toute nature à destination ou originaires des pays étrangers auxquels elles servent ou pourraient servir d'intermédiaires.

Les correspondances à destination des états allemands et du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, ou originaires de ces états seront en tous points traitées comme les correspondances échangées entre les Administrations contractantes.

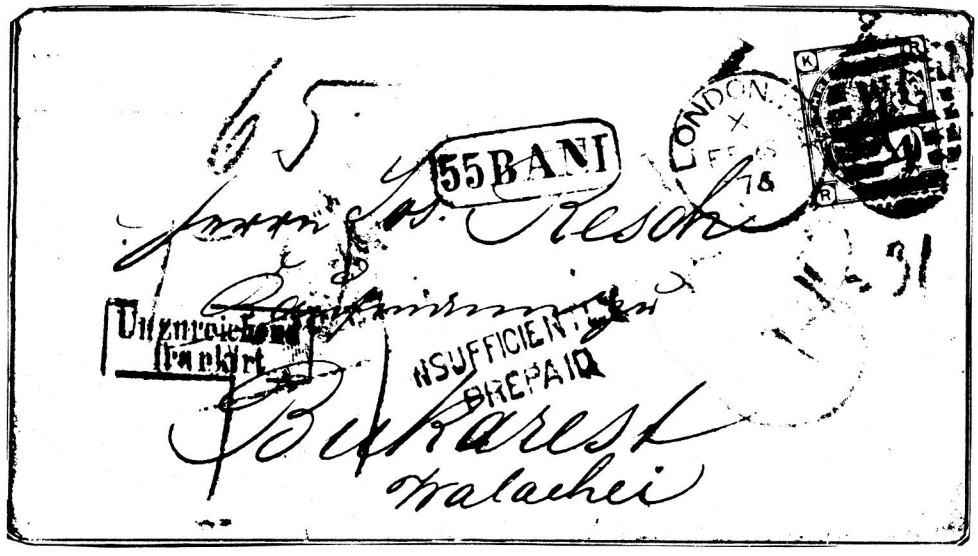
Les Administrations contractantes se payeront réciproquement pour les correspondances à destination ou originaires des pays étrangers les taxes fixées par les conventions respectives en vigueur ou à conclure dans l'avenir.

Les Administrations des Postes dans les deux territoires d'état de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique payeront à l'Administration des Postes des Principautés Unies pour les correspondances affranchies originaires des pays étrangers à destination des Principautés Unies et pour les correspondances non affranchies originaires des Principautés Unies à destination des pays étrangers, les mêmes sommes que pour les correspondances échangées entre les pays contractants.

L'affranchissement facultatif ou obligatoire jusqu'à destination ou jusqu'à une certaine limite des correspondances mentionnées dans le présent article, les conditions que devront remplir les échantillons de marchandises pour jouir de la taxe modérée, les conditions du

Fig. 1

Fig. 2



REVIEW:
BULETIN INFORMATIV
(Informative Bulletin)

Published in Romanian by the Timis County chapter of the Association of Romanian Philatelists, in Timisoara.

The first bulletin, published on August 23, 1979, had 35 pages and the following articles: "The 1944 Military Insurrection as Mirrored by Romanian Philatelic Issues", "About the Activity of a Chapter of the A.F.R." by Dr. Razvan Panaitescu, "An Excerpt from the History of the Postal Markings of Banat" by Eng. Mircea Telegut, "How to Present a Topical Exhibit" by Adolf Pocorschi, "Youngsters, Philately is Calling You!" by Constantin C. Gombos. It also lists officers' names of philatelic clubs in various towns of Timis County, and furthermore contains an illustrated presentation of slogan cancels used in 1978-79 by the TIMISOARA TRANZIT post office.

The second bulletin, published on December 30, 1979, runs 31 pages and features the following articles: "Militant Topics in Today's Philately" by Dr. Razvan Panaitescu, "The Congress of the Romanian Comunist Party" by Lt. Col. Constantin G. Gombos, "Philatelic Connections between Sibiu and Timisoara" by Eng. Mircea Telegut, "Philatelic Clubs and Their Activities" by Vasile Iacob, "The Philatelic Exhibition of Freudenstadt, Federal Republic of Germany" by Dan Taran. Furthermore, the exhibition calendar of the Timis chapter of the A.F.R. as well as illustrations of TIMISOARA postal markings publicizing various event in 1979, are also presented.

Many of the above articles are more of an idelolgical-political than of a philatelic nature. Also other articles, such as "An Excerpt from the History of the Postal Markings of Banat", would have been much more valuable had they been accompanied by illustrations.

The publishing of "Informative Bulletins" by county chapters of the A.F.R. is commendable, especially if such serve to encourage research of territorial postal history.

LOCAL POSTS IN NORTHERN TRANSYLVANIA

George Pataki

On August 30, 1940, the "Vienna Diktat", arrived at through German-Italian arbitration, gave Northern Transylvania to Hungary. Forced by various circumstances, Romania had become an Axis ally and on December 12, 1941, even went so far as declaring war on the United States. Interestingly, the United States did not declare war on Romania until June 6, 1942. Later, on August 23,1944, Romania joined the coalition against Nazi Germany. On September 21, 1944, the Romanian armies began the battle to recapture Northern Transylvania. On October 12, 1944 they entered Oradea. By October 25 1944, when they arrived at Carei and Satu Mare, the entire Northern Transylvania had reverted to Romania.

"De jure," Northern Transylvania came under Romanian jurisdiction on February 10, 1947 (the signing of the Peace Treaty between Romanian and the Allied and Associated Powers, in Paris) but the Romanian posts were already "de facto" servicing the area in October-December 1944. Local authorities, independently one from another, started postal services. They used overprinted Hungarian stamps (in Odorhei, Oradea, Salaj, Sighet and Tirgu-Mures), overprinted Romanian stamps (in Tirgu-Mures) or they printed new stamps (Nasaud, Oradea, Salaj).

This article deals with two of the three issues that bear new designs (not overprints); the **ORADEA** issues is described elsewhere in this bulletin by Ladislau Rothman of Israel.

NASAUD. A single stamp type was issued in February 1945. These were printed in sheetlets of 8 stamps in two rows, each with four stamps. The top margin of the four stamps in the first row is imperforate. They were printed and used in the city of Bistrita. The stamps are black on white ribbed (textured), ungummed paper, and are perforated 11½. The text in Romanian reads: "POSTA, JUD. NASAUD" (Posts, Nasaud County) on the top and the denomination, in Hungarian currency in use: "2 PENGO" on the bottom.

The center design is stylized and it shows some fruits, leaves and a lion's head. The size of a stamp perforated on all its four sides is 27 x 42.5 mm. and of the sheetlet of 8 stamps with the blank margins is 146 x 100 mm.

NASAUD sheetlet

Genuinely postally used Nasaud stamps are very scarce; most of the "used" stamps to be found have been favor cancelled.

There are not listed by Scott but are fully described in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974.

SALAJ. Three types of stamps were issued in March 1945. Two share the same design (50 fileri, from yellow brown to bright orange on white paper, and, 1 Pengo, from light blue to dark blue on white paper). The other design bears a 2 Pengo face value and it is printed in violet red on yellowish ochre paper. The gum is white. the stamps were lithographed and display a rough perforation 11. The text, "POSTA SALAJULUI 1945", is in Romanian. While the denominations are in Hungarian currency, the spelling of "fileri" conforms with the Romanian orthography.

The 50 fileri and 1 Pengo stamps show a rural mailman in a national costume typical for Salaj county, and their size is 27 x 34 mm. The 2 Pengo stamp shows a mailcoach, and its size is 42.5 x 29 mm. Both designs also display the coat-of-arms of the county of Salaj.

The stamps were printed by Seres, a private printing company in Zalau. They were ordered by the local finance department, subordinated to the prefect's office.

The 50 fileri and the 1 Pengo were printed in sheets of 2 panes of 30, every pane having six rows, each with five stamps, and with a gutter between the panes.

The 2 Pengo stamps were printed in sheets of 2 panes of 25, every pane having five rows, each with five stamps. The bottom row of five stamps are imperforate at bottom. The stamps of the 2 panes are head-to-head, with a gutter between tnem, therefore with five tete-beche gutter-pairs in the center.

Imperforates of the 50 fileri are known, as well as 2 Pengo proofs on white paper, perforated only horizontally (one sheet of 50 stamps).

According to F. Konrad ("Romania, Catalog Filatelic, 1946", page 45), the edition of this issues is as follows:

50 fileri ..... Printed: 10,920
Destroyed: 1,140
Remained: 9,780
1 Pengo..... Printed: 41,040
Destroyed: 30,810
Remained: 10,230
2 Pengo..... Printed: 49,900
Destroyed: 30,810
Remained: 12,175.

Therefore, less than 10,000 complete sets of this issue remained after the destruction of the leftovers, which was carried out, after their withdrawal, by the finance administration of Zalau.

This issue is also not listed by Scott but is presented in detail in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974.

I. Micu in Filatelia, No. 9/1963, describes a typographical variety of the 1 Pengo stamp (the first stamp on the last row of the right pane) has a dot under the letter "S" in "POSTA".

In Zalau, these stamps were cancelled in black with an old Romanian metalic canceler used for money orders. It was also reported the use of a linear rubber canceler with the Hungarian name of the locality "ZILAH" and the date, both in violet ink.

In Simleul Silvaniei a rubber canceler was used with violet ink. The cancel, single circle type, 28 mm in diameter with a text that reads: "Posta Salajului" at the top, "OF. PTT. Simleul Silvaniei" in the center in three lines, and "1945" at the bottom, between 2 small sixpointed stars. The date was marked in violet by a separate linear canceler.

The post offices of Cehul Silvaniei, Crasna, Jibou, Tasnad and Supurul de Jos used similar cancelers but the date was handwritten in ink. The office in Mirsid, not having its own canceler, cancelled the stamps by hand, in ink.

Postally used Salaj stamps are very scarce. Here too, most of the "used" stamps are actually favor cancelled. Unaddressed covers are known, bearing all three of these stamps, each neatly favor cancelled in violet ink with the cancel used in Simleul Silvaniei, and a separate linear date marking, in violet ink, ex: "15 MART. 1945".

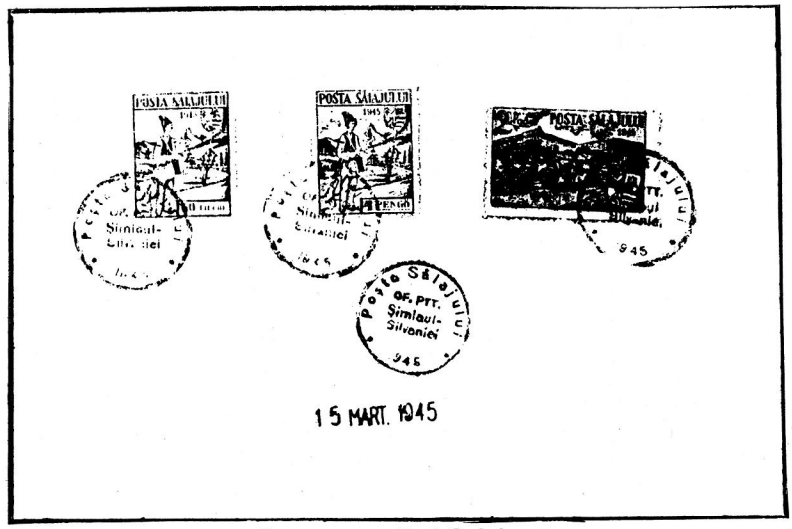
POSTA SALAJULUI 1945

STAMPS WITH GUTTER

Dot under S

Postally used Salaj stamps

Postally used SALAJ cover



Favor cancelled Salaj cover

THE PROBLEMATIC AUSTRIAN FIELD POST OFFICE MARKINGS

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4RX England

One does, generally, experience a degree of uneasiness when confronted with certain postmarks purported to have been used by the Austrian forces in the Danubian Principalities, during the Crimean War occupation; I refer, of course, to those for Kaineni, Piatra, Rimnik and Schtirbey. The considerable diversity of opinions prevailing, seems to warrant a brief review of various authors' attitudes to these markings which were firstly published by Rudolf Zoscsak in the Viennese Sammler-Woche of 5 September 1942. Collectors interested in this particular area of our hobby, would have noticed that Edwin Mueller, almost twenty years thereafter, in his widely respected work of 1961, does not mention any of these offices when dealing with the subject now discussed; those puzzled by Mueller's silence, will find the answer in the October 1950 issue of the Mercury Stamp Journal, New York, where, on pages 69 and 70, we can read as follows: ". . . About the Austrian Fieldpost Offices in Romania 1854 to 1857, R. Zoscsak wrote an article in "Die Sammler-Woche" (Vienna) in 1943 (the year is not indicated correctly, G.S.). due to the war, this article only now came to our attention. The author claims that he could find new Austrian fieldpost cancellations of Rimnik, Piatra, Schtirbey and Kaineni and some others which he describes and pictures. We had seen in the meantime three of the items, Mr. Zoscsak has pictured, all coming from Romania and proving to be quite crude fakes, obtained by painting over indistinct genuine regular cancellations. It is almost unbelievable that an "expert" could fall for such bogus items; but it now becomes more understandable how the same expert was deceived by the numerous Romania fakes, also principally faked cancellations, which have been coming for more than ten years from Romania, all with Zoscsak certificates of genuineness . . .". There is no doubt that the aforesaid represents Mueller's views; he was the editor of the above journal from its inception in February 1947 until his death, everything printed in it originated from his own pen, as the following passage from page 1, number 1, clearly indicates: ". . . We will write all articles and notes ourselves as this is the only way to insure strict adherence to our publishing policy. . ." This is part of the leading article entitled "Our program," signed by Mercury Stamp Company, Publishers and Edwin Mueller, Editor. We can read again, on page 167, 1957: ". . . We have stated repeatedly that all material published in the MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL is supplied and written by our editor. It is our policy not to publish aritcles or notes by other authors . . .". Another of Mueller's underlying causes for ignoring the above markings must have been rooted in his not finding evidence in the Austrian archives regarding the offices in question; on the other hand, the available proof, to his satisfaction, must have been the reason for listing field post offices at Buzeu, Foltitscheni, Slatina and Wasslui, despite the fact that no appropriate postal material has surfaced so far from these localities. As to ". . . the numerous Romania fakes . . . all with Zoscsak certificates . . .", the author meant the "spectacular" items originating very likely from the Wertheimer-Ghika stable and we find evidence for this in Mercury Stamp Journal pages 67 and 91, 1947, pages 164 and 165, 1948, pages 19, 20 and 46, 1950, pages 42 and 43, 1956; yet another aritcle (part of it signed by Otto W. Friedl as well), is on pages 96, 97 and 98 of the revived "Die Postmarke," Vienna, 1947.

Returning to the matter of the field post offices forming the subject of this article, in alphabetical order (Mueller's views being clear, would not be reiterated hereunder):

KAINENI. Zoscsak illustrates a marking and describes a partial strike on a loose 3 kreuzer 1850 Austrian adhesive and a complete strike on a piece bearing the same adhesive. The reason for this marking being ignored by Clement, Racoviceanu and Tchilinghirian & Stephen must be obvious; in CMR '74 listed with a question mark.

PIATRA. A most unusual marking (left) for an Austrian field post office; are the letters F and P added to a genuine Piatra civilian-type strike?

Clement and Racoviceanu list this marking without any apparent hesitation. In spite of considering the matter controversial and the only recorded letter (said to be of 3 July 1856) as a problem item, Tchilignhirian & Stephen rate the marking RRR. In CMR '74 listed with a question mark.

RIMNIK. Zoscsak mentions the two known letters (April 1855), from the same correspondence and illustrates one of them (incidentally, to my knowledge, the other letter has never been reproduced anywhere); the controversy surrounding this case is discussed at some length by Tchilinghirian & Stephen (who rate the marking RRR), enumerating alternative explanations, one of them being identical with that offered by Clement, who attributes this marking to Giurgevo, saying that the field post office designated originally for Rimnik was never opened, its postmark, after usage in Giurgevo during 1855, was apparently lost. Racoviceanu lists this datestamp as a matter of course, without any comments, CMR '74 with a question mark. According to Zoscsak, both letters are complete with their written texts; the present owners could be helpful in communicating the locality of origin, as indicated by the writers of these letters and by, possibly, the recipient's registration. Whilst this information is not going to solve the problem, it would contribute another fact.

SCHTIRBEY. Zoscsak describes and illustrates this marking on a small piece bearing two 3 kreuzer 1850 Austrian stamps; whilst Tchilinghirian & Stephen present it with reservations and Racoviceanu with a question mark, Clement and CMR '74 ignore the matter completely.

Could be of interest to mention Mueller's pointing out in the aforementioned "Die Postmarke" (1947) that during the few years preceding his article, Zoscsak and von Witzleben desisted to take part in the disputations about the Romania fakes; did they see "the light?" Possibly partly; fact remains that in the last of Zoscsak's writings (dating from 1954) I came across, mentioning Austrian field post office markings, only Rimnik is referred to as a discovery.

A recapitulative, chronological listing of the works quoted could be of some use to those wishing to dive deeper into this aspect of postal history:

R. Zoscsak: Sammler-Woche, September 1942
E. Mueller: Mercury Stamp Journal, 1947 to 1956
E. Mueller: Die Postmarke, May-June 1947
R. Zoscsak: Deutscher Altbriefsammler-Verein, 121. Rundbrief, October 1954
E. Mueller: Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia cancellations, 1961
Gr. Racoviceanu: Stampilele postale folosite in Tarile Romine pina in anul 1881, 1963

A. Clement: Handbuch der Feld-und Militarpost in Osterreich, 1964
Tchilinghirian and Stephen: Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part Six, 1966
Catalogul marcilor postale romanesti, 1974 (CMR '74)

Works published prior to Zoscsak's relevant 1942 article have not been indicated. Nevertheless, one should perhaps remind that H. and B. Birnbach's list of field post offices, printed in their well known "Moldau-Walachei (Rumanien), die fremden und einheimischen Posten bis 1875" (1930), is identical with Mueller's (and, essentially, with the list contained in the 1925 forerunner of his 1961 work), even to the extent of Buzeu, Foltitscheni, Slatina and Wasslui; moreover, the Birnbachs quote the numbers of the appropriate Austrian official documents, together with the dates of their issue.

Finally, I have to say that any personal opinion of mine which may have come through in the above, must be, of necessity, subjective.

REVIEW:
ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI

(Postal History of Sibiu)
by Emanoil Munteanu.

In Romanian; published in Sibiu, Romania, 126 pages, 26.60 Lei.

This is the best postal history study ever done of a Romanian town and its vicinity. Beginning with the history of written communication in ancient Dacia during the Roman administration, it continues with the postal organization of Transylvania (emphasizing the posts in Sibiu, formerly known as Hermannstadt and later as Nagy-Szeben) during the 15th-19th centuries and ends in 1918, but covers the Paltinis local posts until 1926.

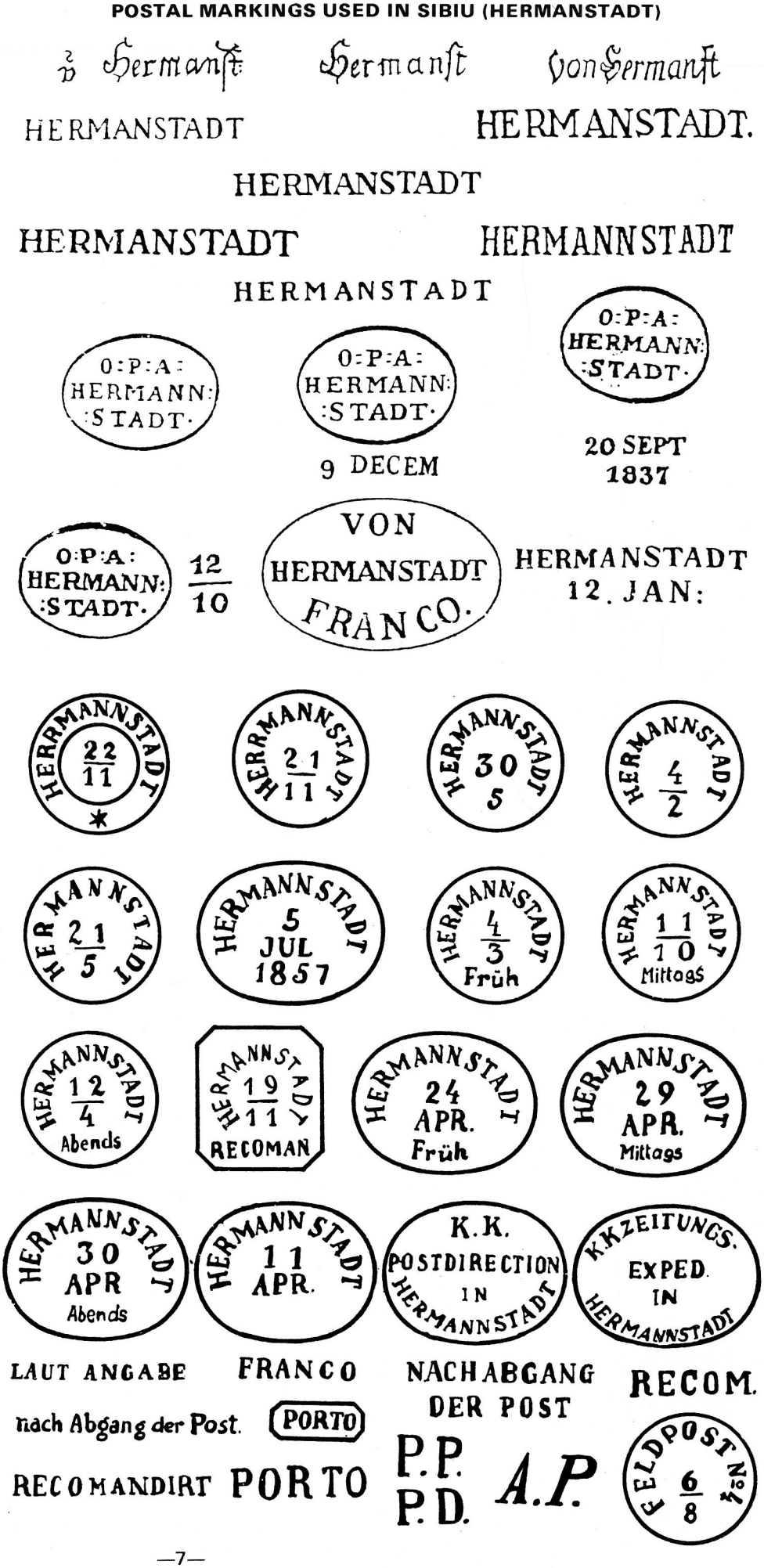
This book features a large number of illustrations, including covers from both the prephilatelic and the philatelic eras, cancellations and service markings, disinfection markings, seals, etc. The prevailing postal rates, and the stamps and postal markings used are presented separately for each period.

Especially well researched is the chapter on the Paltinis local hotel posts (Hohe Rinne). Pages 91-120 describe all the 9 issues and the special postal markings used in connection with them. For the first time the plating of these stamps is described and illustrated accurately and in great detail. Furthermore, a comprehensive bibliography is included in the work.

The author has done an excellent job and has given us a standard to follow in doing studies on postal history of other Romanian cities.

Note: The book is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic club for $11.00 postpaid.

POSTAL MARKINGS USED IN SIBIU (HERMANSTADT)



DDSG covers from a recent KÖHLER (West Germany) auction catalogue

Manuscript Cancellations on Romanian Stamps

by Dr. Eng. Marcel Sapira
Bucharest, Romania

Classical Romanian stamps are rarely found with ink or indelible pencil cancellations. Such obliterations are generally termed "manuscript cancellations." They consist of lines or other indications of performance of postal service. Specialty catalogues (e.g. NETTO) discuss such cancellations at length and generally set their value coefficient higher than that of ordinarily cancelled stamps.

Much more unusual and rare are those cases where the manuscript cancellations consist of the name of the post office handling the mail, especially if the name is written in its entirety. As far as classical Romanian stamps are concerned, such cases have not as yet been mentioned in specialized handbooks.

However, in the interval of only a few months, I have obtained for my collection two examples of the 20 parale stamps of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza 1865 issue (Scott #24/25). Both display a RENI manuscript cancellation (see Figs. 1 and 2), and, on their reverse sides, show marks of the envelopes from which they were removed. It can be deduced that both these cancellations were made by the same person.

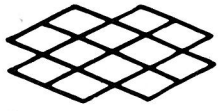
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Wertheimer-Ghica in his book (Documents of The Romanian Posts, vol. 1, page 60) states that the RENI post office started functioning in 1858 or 1859 (according to other sources in 1860), but in its list for cancellations, for this locality the cancel is "unknown."

Odo G. Boem-Renei in his article "Stampilarea Marcilor Postale Romanesti, 1858¢1872" (Cancellations of the Romanian Postage Stamps), published in "Der Briefmarken" Nos. 9/1943 and 1/1944, states that the RENI post office did not possess cancellations of types B1, B2 or B3 (by the Racoviceanu classification system). However, the city of Cahul, the capital of the region where RENI is located (in Bessarabia), did possess cancellation devices of type B1 and later B3. The same reference states that the RENI post office did have a cancellation of the "single trellis," B-12 type (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3



The Cuza stamps were placed in circulation on January 9/21, 1865. The earliest known date of use is on this day, in the form of a BUCURESCII, B-11 type cancellation. On January 16/28, 1865, "single trellis" type cancelling devices were sent to the post and telegraph offices. The week between the issuance of the Cuza stamps and the arrival of the cancellers is important, as for that interval stamps were necessarily obliterated by means of cancellations otehr than B-12, assuming that the RENI post office received and used those stamps. From all sources examined it is clear that the first mechanical canceller assigned to RENI was of type B-12. Therefore, for about one week RENI had stamps but no device to cancel them with. Thus, this town must have relied on handwritten cancellations to mark their mail.

Fig. 4

In any case, it is unlikely that the two RENI cancellations in discussion were produced after June 1865, the date upon which RENI received a cancellation device of the "elaborate ornament" (arabesque) type (Fig. 4). The "single trellis," B-12 type of cancelling devices were never recalled at any time during the period that the Cuza stamps were in use, and thus, a manuscript cancellation would have been unnecessary. It can be assumed that these manuscript cancellations came about sometime during the first few days of the Cuza stamps' circulation, but, in any case, not after June 1865, when the RENI post office had available two cancellation instruments: a B-12 single trellis and an elaborate arabesque type.

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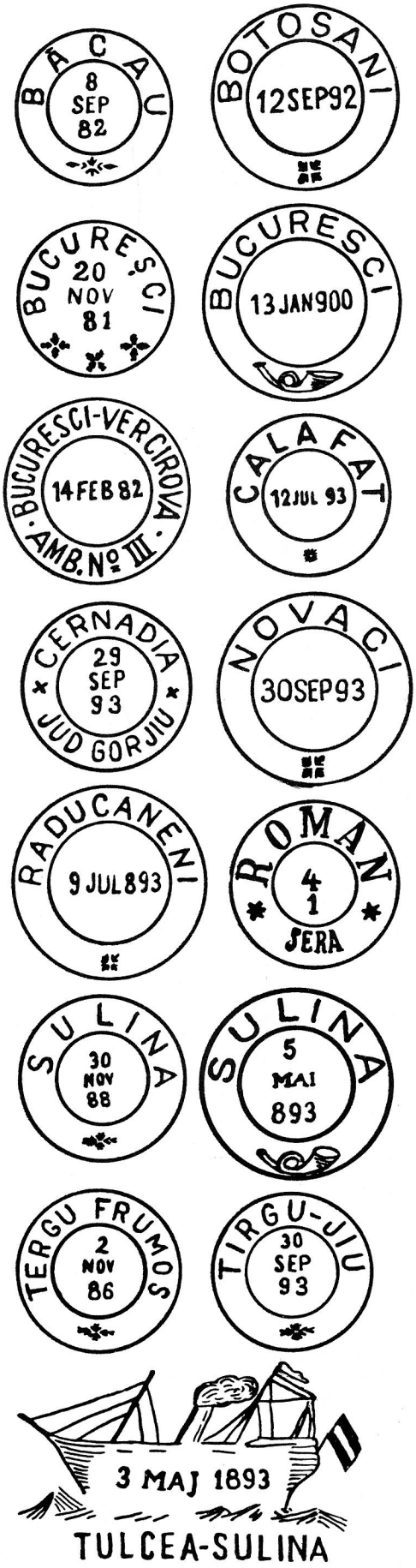
19th century Romanian cancelmarks



POSTAL MARKINGS OF CRAIOVA, 1830-1900

Prof. Silviu Iser, Craiovita Noua, Bl. 171D, Sc. 1, Apt. 2, 1100 Craiova, Romania

The city of Craiova, an important economic and cultural center in Southern Romania, has had an interesting postal history. In Walachia, in the 19th century, the posts were at first serviced by private entrepreneurs. Because of the lack of railroads, early mail transport was achieved by mounted riders. The concession to transport mail started on August 1, 1830, and ended in May 1862. In the beginning, contracts ran for 3 years; from 1836 for 5 years; and, during the last period for approximately 6 years. Captains of the postal relay stations would collect postage fees and mark the letters and the official documents they handled with their own seals. One such concession operated in Craiova. Postal markings are known displaying "POSCIA CRAIOVEI" used in Craiova, and "POSCIA DIN SPRE BUCURESCI SPRE CRAIOVA" (The posts from Bucharest to Craiova) used on the route from Bucharest to Craiova.

The prephilatelic postal markings used in Walachia beginning in 1853 usually attest to the departure of a piece of mail, and thus can be considered as "departure cancellations." In extremely rare cases they can be found on covers as arrival cancellations. Walachian prephilatelic markings bear the name of the town in capital Cyrillic letters and below it the date; the first 3 letters of the month also in Cyrillic letters are followed by the day of the month in Arabic numerals. The year does not appear on these prephilatelic markings just as it does not appear on the first markings introduced during the later philatelic era.

An early cover I possess shows a CRAIOVA departure cancellation dated "March 2" together with a BUCURESTI arrival cancellation dated "March 7."

June 1862 marks the introduction of double circle cancellations with a small ornamental star. "Monitorul Oficial" No. 197/06 IX 1862 lists 43 post offices which received this type of cancellation, and includes Craiova. It is interesting that no such cancellation has been found used in Craiova while they were found used in other localities of the same county of Dolj (Calafat, Tintareni, and one with six-pointed split end rays in Bechet).

Craiova is the first city in Romania to use a cancellation with an "arabesque" ornament; later this type became widely used by many localities.

It is interesting to note that the name of the city was alternately spelled "CRAJOVA", because of Austrian influence; the Austrians had consular and military post offices in Craiova.

Below is a presentation of the various postal markings Craiova used during the 19th century. Besides these, in Craiova as in other localities, other types of markings without the name of the city were utilized, for example the grid cancel, PP, Recom, Recomandat, Franco, Porto, Dupa Plecare, T, 28 Bani, 30 Bani, etc.

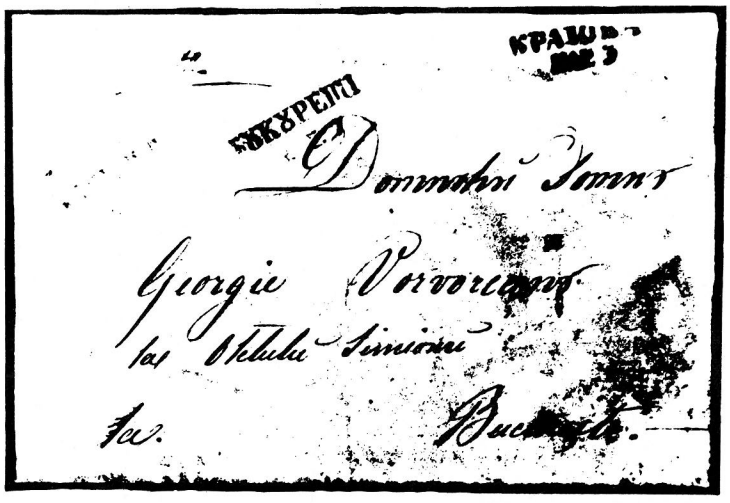
The Austrian consular post office started operating in 1732. A "K K OESTER AGENZIE STAROSTIE" marking has been found in passport No. 423 of September 22, 1861, issued to Petrache Kincea. The works of Ion Maiorescu show that the Austrian consular posts existed much earlier and even the names of the consular clerks of the earlier period are known.

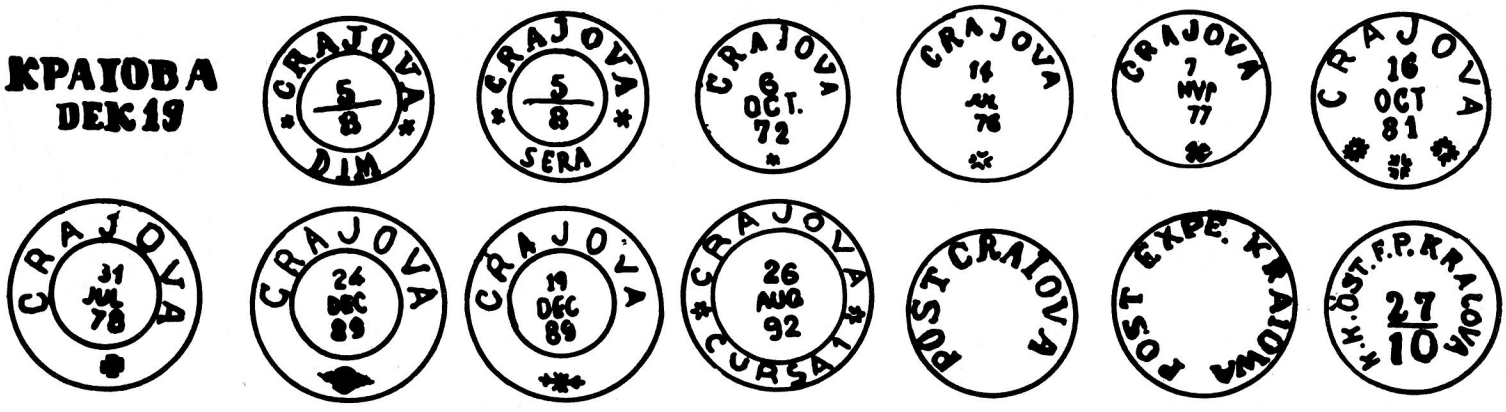
A cover mailed in October 1857 from Athens, Greece, to Craiova, bears the marking "POST EXPE.KRAIOWA", and is not dated (the date has been determined from the content of the letter).

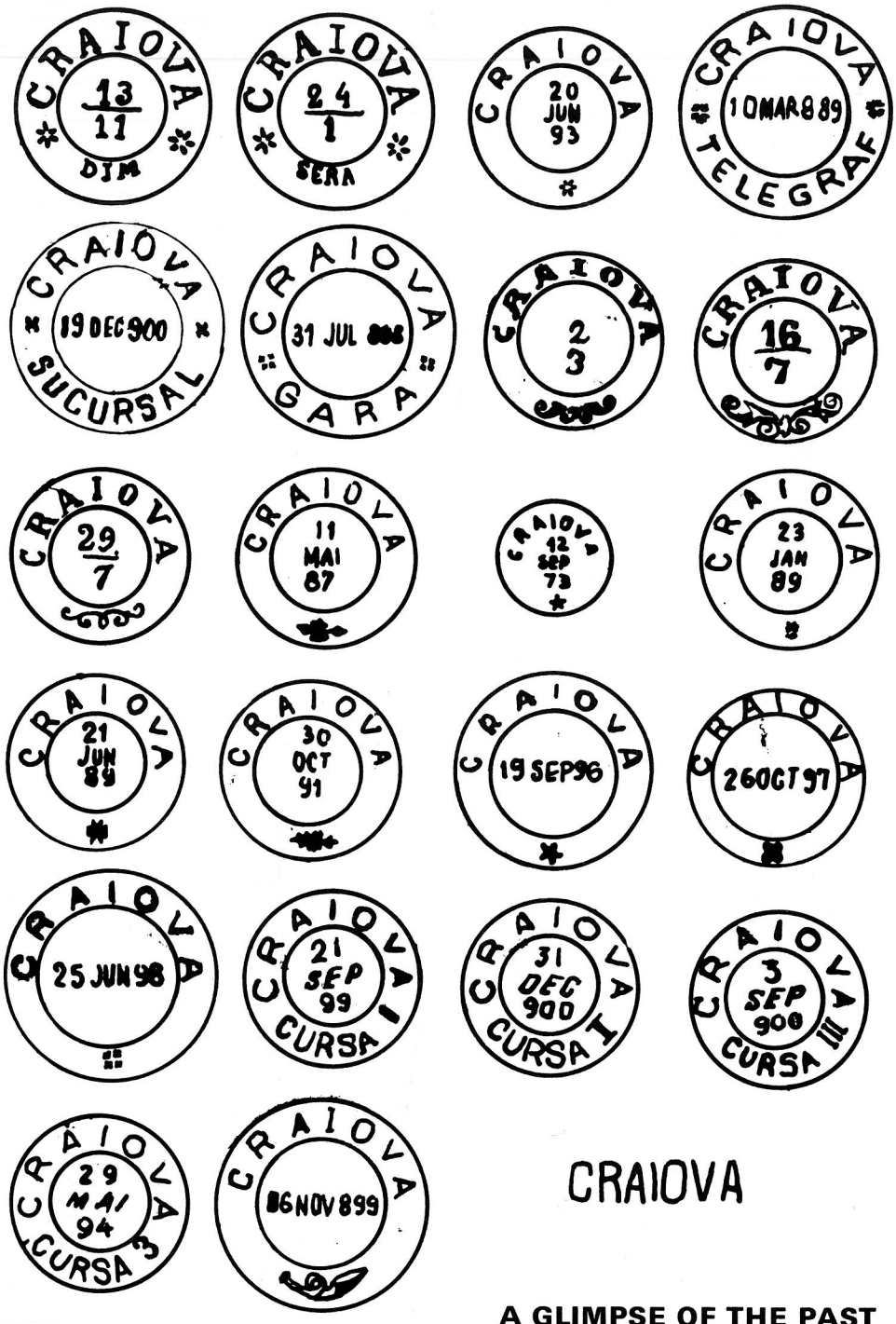
A postal receipt used in 1866 shows the marking "POST CRAIOVA" with a handwritten date in ink.

One Austrian military post office used a marking with the text: "K K, OST, F, P, Krajowa" with a reversed letter "J".

This short presentation is first in a study of the postal history of the city of Craiova.






CRAIOVA 13 11 DIM
CRAIOVA 24 1 SERA
CRAIOVA 20 JUN 93
CRAIOVA 10MAR889 TELEGRAF
CRAIOVA 19 DEC 900 SUCURSAL
CRAIOVA 31 JUL 88 GARA
CRAIOVA 2 3
CRAIOVA 16 7
CRAIOVA 29 7
CRAIOVA 11 MAI 87
CRAIOVA 12 SEP 73
CRAIOVA 23 JAN 89
CRAIOVA 21 JUN 89
CRAIOVA 30 OCT 91
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CRAIOVA 26 OCT 97
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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

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A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

In June of 1858, the following notice written in Cyrillic, was hung up on the door of the Bucharest "posts":

"The Russian mailcoach leaves Bucharest on Thursday, weekly for Jassy and Russia and for Constantinople biweekly.

The K.K. Austrian mailcoach leaves twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays, for Austria, Germany, Italy, France and England. Letters to be received at the agency's office must be franked.

Those who travel by mailcoach have to have a permit from the honorable 'Great Vornic'. (A high governmental official).

For every 'posta' (the distance between 2 mailcoach relay stations) 2 lei per item shall be paid."

London 1980

The "London 1980" International Stamp Exhibition (May 6-14, 1980) presented much excellent Romanian material, either in specialized exhibits, or as part of related collections.

In the Court of Honor, **Fritz Heimbuchler** of West Germany displayed "ROMANIA 1822-72, MOLDAVIA and WALACHIA." It included 39 first issue stamps of 1858, one of the largest collections ever assembled, both unused, used and on covers as well as 1858 second issues with some unique items.

In the EUROPE category, the following specialized exhibitors won high awards for their showings:

Dr. PAUL HIRSCH of England (Vermeil) presented: "ROMANIA TO 1872". An overall picture of the indigenous postal history and philately of the Danubian Principalities and of Romania.

GHEORGHE NEGULESCU of Romania (Silver) showed: "PRE-PHILATELIC CANCELLATIONS AND CLASSIC STAMPS OF ROMANIA, 1858-72".

J.J. SCHRETLEN of the Netherlands (Gold) exhibited: "MOLDAVIA, ROMANIA 1858-1900": Specialized classic collection including covers, blocks, types and perforations.

DUMITRU PASSALEGA of Romania (Vermeil) displayed: "ROMANIA 1859-72": Stamps and postal markings used.

KIRIAC DRAGOMIR of Romania (Vermeil) presented: "STUDY OF THE CLASSIC LITHOGRAPHIC ISSUES OF ROMANIA, 1864-72": Transfer-blocks, plates, paper and color varieties, retouches, etc.

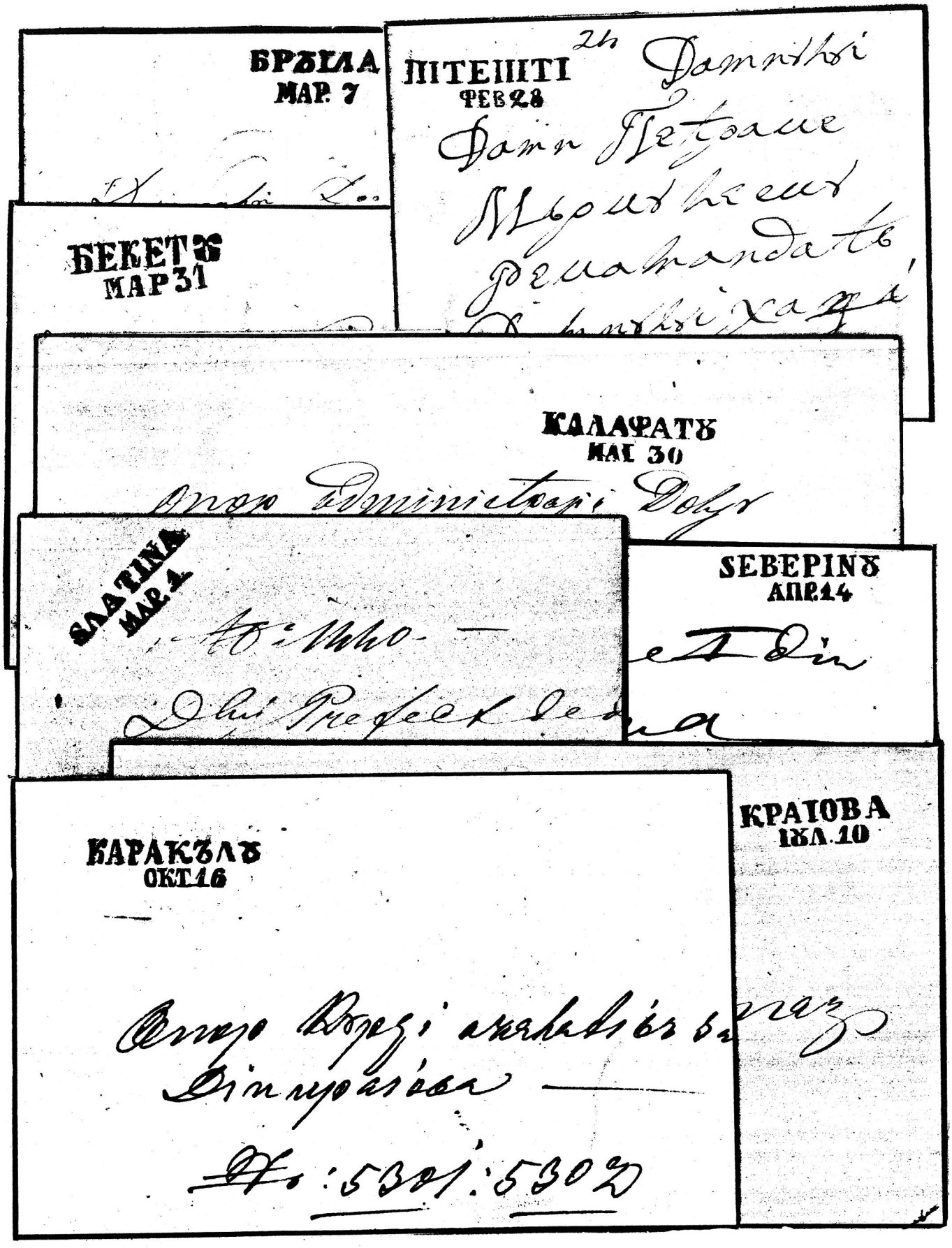
HANS GEORG of West Germany (Gold with felicitations of the jury) showed: "THE UNITED PRINCIPALITIES OF ROMANIA, 1862-80": Pre-stamp, bullhead and lithographed issues with printing types and plate reconstructions.

In the AEROPHILATELY category **MIHAIL POPOVICI** of Romania (Vermeil) exhibited: "EARLY AIRMAIL OF ROMANIA": Postal documents and cancellations concerning the beginning of airmail in Romania.

Several other exhibits consisted partly of Romanian material.

All the exhibitors of the specialized Romanian material are **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** subscribers and all Romanian entries received high awards.

Covers with prephilatelic postmarks of Walachia



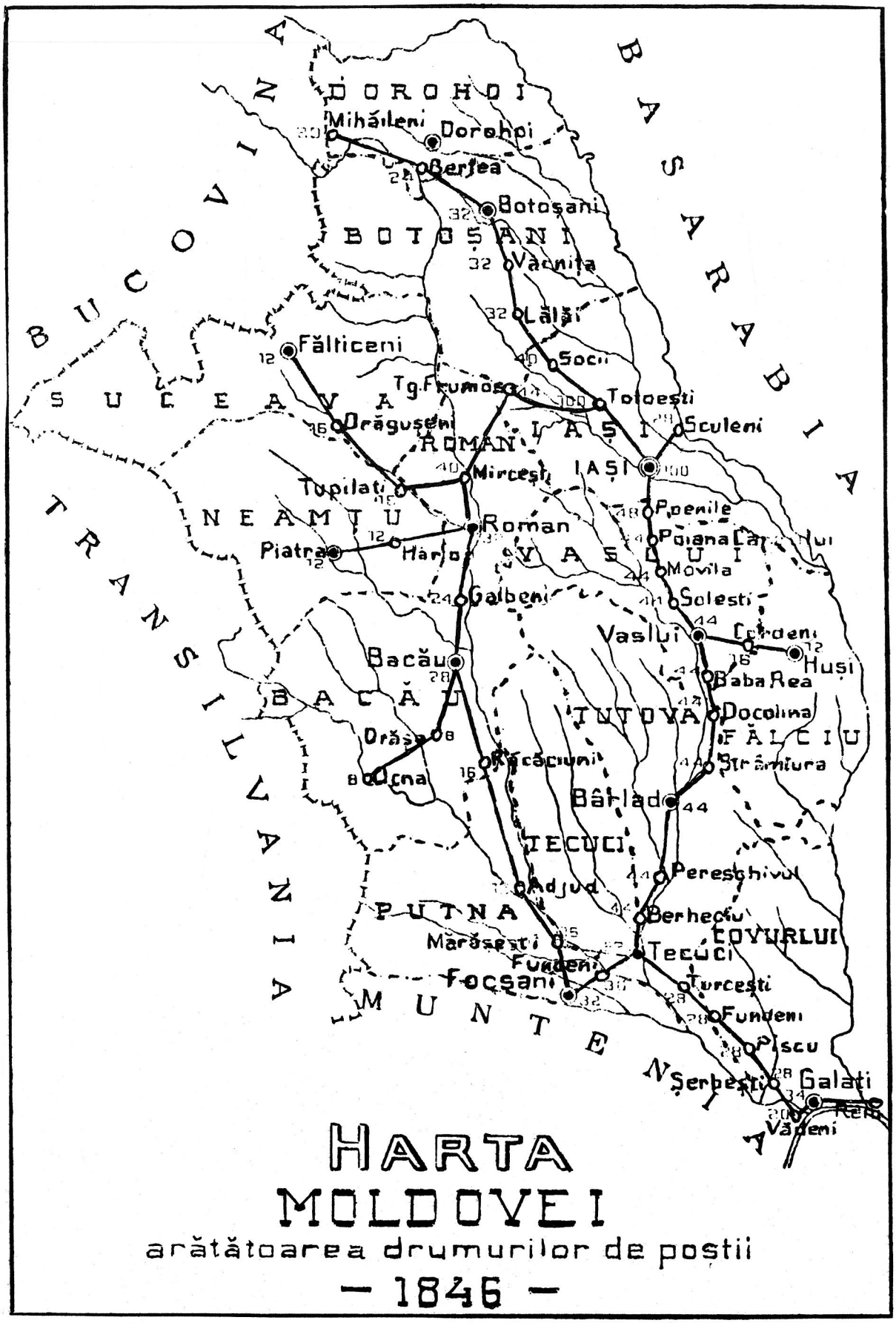
A ROMANIAN MARITIME MARKING NOT BEFORE ILLUSTRATED

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4RX England

In the April 1972 issue of Filatelia, Bucharest, Ludovic Dengel signs an article about fluvial and maritime markings, the majority of which, at that particular date, have not been featured yet in the Romanian literature; one of these markings, described (but not illustrated) on page 11 of the above monthly publication, is the subject of the present discussion. Mr. Dengel informs, in essence, as follows: "Messrs. Kohler's (Wiesbaden) catalgue for their 202nd auction on 1 to 4 December 1971, mentions a 1908 military postcard, showing a circular marking; the inscription at the top reads "BR Amb. MARITIM ROMAN", at the bottom "CONSTANTA-Constantinopel-1", coat of arms in the centre, no date. Given the fact that this handstamp appears on a military postcard and, at the same time, incorporates a maritime route, one could assume that it was used by the navy. In the opinion of a Viennese collector of long standing, these markings, without date and showing the country's coat of arms in the centre, could belong to the navy. However, in my view, this problem deserves further, detailed investigation." So far Dengel. Gr. Racoviceanu, on page 7, Filatelia, May 1977, indexes this handstamp as D106f; despite the fact that Mr. Racoviceanu duly refers to L. Dengel's article, the inscriptions are now stated to be "BIR. AMB. MARITIM ROMAN", at bottom "CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPOL"; no date, coat of arms at centre - as given by L. Dengel. The symbols indicating single ring and diameter are followed by query marks, that is to say the author was not in the position to communicate these particulars. Silviu Dragomir, in roman Philatelic Studies No. 3 1979 page 3, indexes (but does not illustrate) the handstamp as S.M.R.-1.2.15; for details readers are referred to the respective bulletin.

During the early 1978, in London, whilst looking through Mr. Vandervelde's general collection of maritime mail, I noticed a postcard which struck me as being, possibly, the one described initially by Dengel and having been offered at the aforementioned Kohler auction. In reply to my letter, the auctioneers kindly sent a photocopy of the respective catalogue page; the lot was not illustrated, I understand, only described:
"Los-Nr. 2181 1980, Militar-Schiffspostkarte Smyrne-Constanta-Constantinopel, m. Kronenstpl., feinst" (1908, military-ship post card Smyrna-Constanta-Constantinople, w(ith) crown handstamp, finest).

The year, 1908, does not appear to be correct for a Romanian military postcard; the succession of the ports is not right either. Should we adopt the hypothesis that the document now illustrated is identical with the one auctioned by Messrs. Kohler and, in turn, the one written about by Dengel, the errors in the catalogue could be explained by the fact of the maritime travelling post office's known date stamp (CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPLE-SMYRNE, posthorn, S.M.R.) being applied upside down on the postcard; this resulted in (a) the incorrect sequence of the ports of call printed in the catalogue as "Smyrne-Constanta-Constantinopel" and (b) the date suggesting to be . . . 08, that is the last two digits of the year 1908. In fact, the date is - 8, the month in all probability D(EC); the year could be 916, see also the last line written on the reverse (figure 2): Conztantza (cyrillic) d. (cyrillic) 1.XII 1916. In any case, 1908 is not possible for the type of postcard illustrated. Various authors give different dates of issue; however, due to the inscription "Armata de Operatiuni", implying state of war, the earliest event which could have caused its issue was the 1912-13 Balkan war. To my knowledge, there is no record of a military postcard, of any description, preceding the one now discussed. In fact, this handstamp (indexed and illustrated by Silviu Dragomir in Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 3/1979 as S.M.R.-1.2.3.) is only one of the two different types applied on this card. The other handstamp, (not illustrated before) dateless, double-ring 33.5/23.5 mm. struck twice in black ink, shows at the top "BR.AMB.MARITIM ROMAN", at the bottom "CONSTANTA-CONSTANTINOPOL 1"; as against the opinion quoted in Dengel's article, I am inclined to think that this markings has nothing to do with the navy but rather it is a cachet of adminstative nature, belonging to the travelling post office. The postcard does present very obvious problems, such as, for instance, the destination, Leipzig, the routing via Constantinople (at least); these in December 1916, when the countries to which the above localities belonged, were in state of war with Romania. Moreover, at this time, Constanta was already under German and Bulgarian occupation and consequently one can hardly contemplate the possiblility of a Romanian military postcard (free of postal charges, by the way) being sent from the town. Nevertheless, I have to say that a short while ago I did see a postcard of the same type sent to Germany during the first world war; although, unfortunately, I failed to note the relevant details, the item looked convincing. In the present case, the slightly melodramatic handwritten message, identical in meaning in both languages, Bulgarian and German, does not help to clarify matters. One also wonders, what was the fate of the Romanian maritime vessels (and the handstamps of the maritime ambulatory postal services) during the war and, more particularly, during the occupation of Constanta. Possibly, well informed readers would be able to offer some suggestions, although the likelihood of a souvenir-item can not be excluded; it should be noted that the document does not display any signs of postal handling at transit or arrival. There is an additional little puzzle: in spite of the fact that (according to the information I received from Messrs. Kohler) the item offered for sale was not illustrated in the auction catalogue, Ludovic Dengel gives details (albeit not quite correct) of the dateless handstamp's text; did he obtain these through the "Viennese collector of long standing" (the late Franz See perhaps)? Mr. Dengel could enlighten us regarding this point.



THE MAP OF MOLDAVIA WITH THE POSTAL ROUTES OF 1864.
From "The History of the Romanian Posts" by Constantin N. Minescu.

Perforation Varieties of the Paris-Bucharest Issue

By SILVIU DRAGOMIR,
Bucharest, Romania

The Paris-Bucharest issue (1872-1880) was produced with many varieties of perforations (see table.) The following is an attempt to reconcile the various observations regarding the variations that occured during the many printings of this issue. (See "Some Notes on the Paris-Bucharest Issue, 1872-1880" in **Romanian Philatelic Studies**, No. 3 / 1977, for reasons the three printings Paris, Bucharest I, Bucharest II - are considered as a single issue.)

For the 1872 Paris printing, the stamps' perforation was effected by the use harrow system. This method consists of perforating an entire sheet in one stroke by means of a press gauged with appropriate punches. Perfect perforations on all sides are achieved. The stamps thus bear even corners, are well centered and have no cut-off perforations. All this can be accomplished despite narrow distances between stamps. The entire Paris printing normally has perforation 14:13½, but can also be found imperforate.

The Bucharest I and II printings, on the other hand, were perforated by the most basic system, using a line perforator. This machine perforates the spaces between rows (horizontally) and then those between columns (vertically), or vice-versa (depending on the particular worker's habits). This line perforation system shows three principal faults when compared to the harrow system used in Paris:

The uneveness of the perforations at the stamp's corner sometimes leads to stamps to stamps with missing corner teeth, as the horizontal and vertical perforation holes will very rare coincide at the corners.

Perforation errors: some rows or columns can remain imperforate. Sometimes double perforations occur.

A large percentage of any line perforated stamps are not centered properly.

In the two Bucharest printings totally imperforate copies from sheets made for sale are extremely rare exceptions. Collectors should beware of proofs passed off as imperforate regular stamps.

For the two Bucharest printings the perforations are not limited to these usually listed in catalogues, as there were numerous perforators, yielding the varieties encountered today. Just how many perforators or, to be more exact, how many combs were used is not definitely known. E. Cohen's state (in **Les Timbres de Roumanie des Emissions de 1872 a 1879**, Lisbon, Portugal, 1952) that there were only two perforators does not seem to be justified since the variety of perforations is great.

VALUE - BANI →		PARIS	BUCHAREST I					BUCHAREST II						
SCOTT No. →		1½-50	1½	5	10	15	30	1½	3	5	10	15	25	50
No.	PERF.	53-59	60	61	62/63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
1	11		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2	11¼		○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	●
3	11½		○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
4	11¾							○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5	13			○										
6	13¼			○										
7	13½		●	●	○	●		●		●	●	●	●	
8	13¾			○										
9	14 : 13½	●												
10	11½ : 13½		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
11	13½ : 11½		●		●		●	●	●	●	●			
12	13 : 11½			○	●			○		○	○		○	
13	13½ : 11			○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○		
14	11 : 11¼							○			●			
15	11¼ : 11			○				○						
16	11½ : 11¼			○	○									
17	11¾ : 11½							○		○				
18	11 : 12½		●											
19	12½ : 11½						○							
20	13 : 13½		●											
21	11 : 12¼											●		

● KNOWN PERFORATIONS

○ PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED PERFORATIONS

This table indicates the many perforation varieties of the Paris-Bucherest issues of 1872-1880.

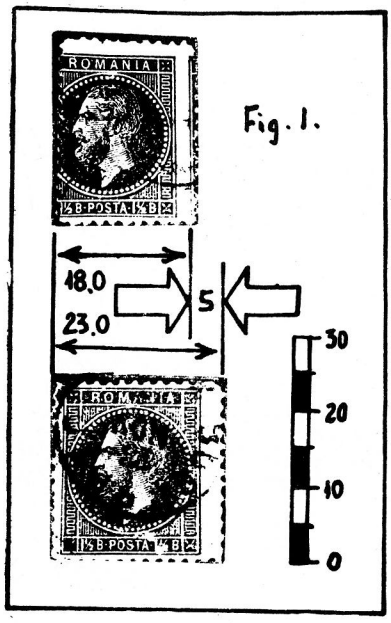


Fig. 1.

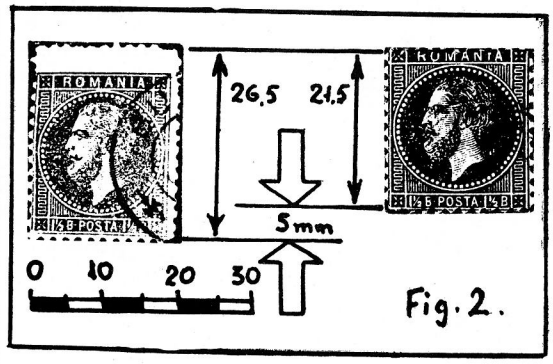


Fig. 2.

Perforations known at present are summarized in the accompanying chart. Some additional comments are:

Off-center stamps can sometimes be found in the 1872 Paris printing; this, however, can only occur throughout entire sheets but not on isolated copies within a sheet, due to the method of perforation.

Stamps of the Bucharest I and II printings can vary greatly in length and / or width (Figs. 1, 2.)

The large variations found in the stamps' perforations can be explained by the use of imperfectly spaced perforators, as well as by shrinkage sustained by the paper used.

Partially imperforate stamps come from sheets whose perforation was not totally completed and then were not noticed and culled by the quality control inspector. The most valuable type is the horizontal pair, imperforate vertically.

Stamps with a different perforation on only one side (extremely rare) are the result of reperforating (with a different machine, of course) a sheet after noticing that only one line or a few lines or perforations were missing.

It should also be mentioned that the Paris-Bucharest issue is particularly well suited for specialty studies, there being varieties not only of perforation, but also of printing, colors and paper, with many interesting cancellation also to be found.

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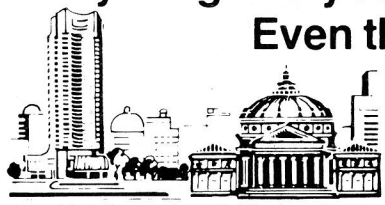
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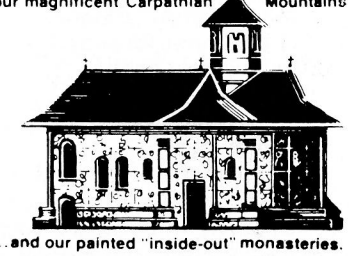
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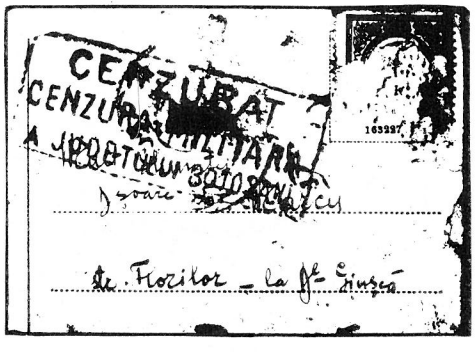
CURIOUS CENSOR MARKINGS

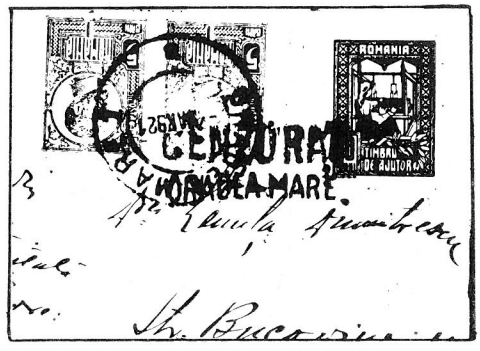
SILVIU DRAGOMIR
Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17,
70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Few philatelists collect and study censor markings, one of the most interesting chapters in the study of postal markings. One reason is the lack of studies, listings or guidelines for such material, which has created confusion and uncertainty.

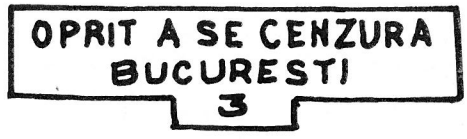
Another reason for limited interest in such research is that not enough study material is to be found. Even worse, much material has been discarded because the stamps were defective. It should be borne in mind that even when the stamps on a cover are not of the best grade, the entire can still give us valuable postal history information. An extreme example is when stamps on a postcard or cover have been ripped off by the censor in order to see if anything was written under them. Often portions of them remain on the card of cover, and it can be seen that the censor marking was applied AFTER parts of the stamps were pulled off. The illustrated example bears a marking in a rectangular, 55x22 mm. frame, with a text reading: "CENZURAT CENZURA MILITARA A JUDENTULUI BOTOSANI" (Censored by the Military Censorship in Botosani County).



A curious situation exists with the "CENZURAT ORADEA MARE" marking which was applied in Oradea Mare on March 4, 1921. It has been established that in Romania, after World War I, censorship of domestic mail was abolished on July 15, 1920, and of foreign mail on September 8, 1920. It would seem that what we have here is a "late usage" of a marking. However, because a great number of such can be found with similar dates it would appear that in Oradea Mare, the censorship continued to operate even after it was officially abolished. The question is why?



A second unexplained marking is the "OPRIT A SE CENZURA BUCURESTI 3" (Prohibited to censor Bucharest 3) applied during World War II, mostly on open correspondence (postal cards, illustrated postcards). Again, several questions come up. Why was some mail exempt from censorship? Which mail was exempt? Who made the decision?

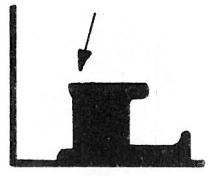


REPORTED AND UNREPORTED VARIETIES OF THE 4 LEI, CAROL II STAMP

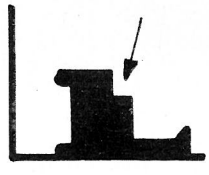
DR. ENG. MARCEL SAPIRA,
Sos. Oltenitei No. 73,
bl.5, et.II, apt. 10
75504 Bucharest, Romania

In my collection are some varieties of the 4 Lei Carol II, vermilion stamp (Scott #451, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74 #476) which I had thought to be unreported. Recently however, I found four of these varities described in "Revista Societatii Filatelce Romane", nos. 1-2 and 5-6 of 1943.

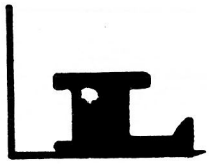
1. Letter "L" in "LEI" has the upper left part of serif missing. Out of the 100 stamps to a sheet, this is found 20 times - all stamps in columns 3 and 7.



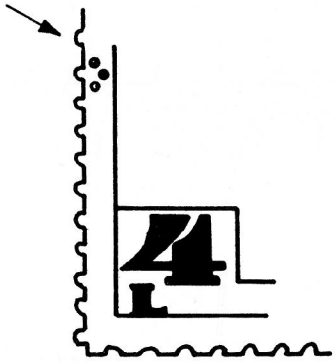
2. Letter "L" in "LEI" has the upper right part of serif and some of the upper right corner missing. One of the above magazine articles gives contradictory information, stating that it is in position 74, the 3rd stamp on the 7th row. But the 3 rd stamp on the 7th row is position 63, therefore, one of these statements is wrong. If anybody does know the correct position of this variety, we would appreciate a note.



3. Letter "L" in "LEI" has a round white spot in the upper part of the vertical bar. This variety is in position 32, the 2nd stamp on the 4th row of the sheet.



4. Three colored dots in the margin between the left frame line and the perforation near the 13th tooth from the bottom. Located in position 71, the first stamp on the 8th row, it appears only on the small number of printings sold between November 1938 and March 1939. It seems that this error was observed and corrected quite early in the printing process.



Besides these, I posses another and a printing error, unreported as far as I know:

5. Imperforate at right. This was displayed at the "Nationala '78" exhibition in Bucharest. Several experienced philatelists declared it was previously unknown to them. Obviously it comes from the 10th column of the sheet.

6. An accidental error and not a constant variety, it is however possible that more than one such was printed: the lower left corner of the stamp is not printed.

We conclude that is worthwhile carefully checking even the most common stamps for varieties and printing errors.

MORE ROMANIAN MARITIME MARKINGS

by GABRIEL SASSOWER, London, England

In the following, I propose to present two hitherto unrecorded handstamps.

Figure 1. Cover offered at the October 1977 Roger Koerber, USA, sale; it shows on the flap a double ring violet marking: BUCURESCI-CONSTANTA-COSPOLI, posthorn, date in the center 5 MAI896 (not 15 MAI as it appears to be). This handstamp - the counterpart of the well known COSPOLI-CONSTANTA-BUCURESCI, posthorn, date-is considered by Silviu Dragomir presumptive and classified S.M.R.-1.1.2.3. (page 4, Romanian Philatelic Studies 2/1979). I had the opportunity to see at a London auction a large number of similar covers, the adhesives belonging to the same category and the datestamps identically colored and dated as those shown on the item now considered; all the covers were, quite obviously, produced for collectors, just the same as the illustrated one. Until a more convincing piece of mail turns up, it may be of some use to place the present strike on record, although I do this with certain reservations.

Fig. 1

Figure 2. I have seen this large size double ring marking in the A.C. Lascarides collection (England), struck in a shade of red, obliterating Greek adhesives; obviously, a cachet of administrative nature. Mr. Lascarides kindly supplied the illustrated tracing and the information that the Greek stamps cancelled by this device are those of the 1913-23 litho. issue, one piece bearing the 2 dr. vermilion (S.G.226), the other piece a pair of the 1 dr. ultramarine (S.G.225). A reasonable assumption regarding the missing part at the top would suggest the text as being (SERVICE MAR)ITIME DE L'ETAT ROUMAIN, AGENTS/GENERAUX/EN GRECE; records in Romania should contain the full name of the Agents, . . . ER & Co.

REVIEW:

BULETIN INFORMATIVE

(Informative Bulletin)

Published in Romanian language by the Timis County chapter of the Association of the Romanian Philatelists.

No. 1/1980. The following articles nicely fill out 32 pages:

"Michael the Brave Mirrored in Romanian Philately" by Lt. Col. Constantin C. Gombos, "The Organization of Philatelic Groups in Schools" by Vasile Iacob, "The Colors of the Postal Cancellations used in Transylvania and Banat until 1870" by Mircea Telegut, "Results and Perspectives" by Dr. Razvan Panaitescu, "Expolimp - a Great Philatelic Manifestation" and "Slogan Cancels with Sports as a Topic" both by Dan Taran, "The 6th Edition of Banatmax" by Lukacs Arpad, "A New Philatelic Club of Timisoara" by A. Vallo, D. Taran and I. Moldovan, and a review of the "Romanian Philatelic Studies" by Mircea Telegut.

No. 2/1980. This issue has 29 pages with the following articles:

"2050th Anniversary of the Creation of the Dacian State as Mirrored by Romanian Philately" by Lt. Col. Constantin C. Gombos, "The Present Value of the 1913 Brunel Catalogue" by Dr. Razvan Panaitescu, "Philately and the European Conference for Security and Cooperation" by Heinrich Frank, "Postal Routes in Timis County in the 18th and 19th Centuries" by Mircea Telegut, "Slogan Cancels Used by the Timisoara Transit Post Office During 1979-80" by Dan Taran.

There also is a table with the addresses of various philatelic clubs in Timis County, a schedule of the swapping sessions of various clubs and a time table for the 1981 exhibitions, as well as the prize lists of various local exhibitions.

In the "Publications Received" column, four publications are reviewed.

A 624-page ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

Fig. 2

A COLLECTIVE PROOF OF THE ALBA-IULIA ISSUE

DAVID GIJIRIGUIAN, New York, N.Y.

The Alba-Iulia set of 7 stamps was issued on October 15, 1922 in connection with the coronation of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie. Proofs exist of issued stamps and essays of the unissued ones. The designs of the essays and proofs were created by Ludovic Basarab, who was the designer of several other Romanian stamps of the period. The essays and proofs, as well as the stamps were produced in Munich by the Bayerische Staatsdruckerei (Bavarian State Printing Works). These are the first Romanian issue which show the watermark of horizontally or vertically set wavy lines (Scott watermark no. 95, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue '74 watermark no. XI, Michel wz. nr. 3) which is similar to one found on Bavarian stamps.

According to the information provided by Edouard Cohen ("Contributions a l'Etude des Essais des Timbre-Poste de Roumanie" - Lisbon, 1945), Basarab presented several artist's drawings, from which twelve were selected and proofs were made. Of these twelve, seven were adopted as the final designs of the stamps (Scott #283-289; R.P.S.C. '74 #389-395; Michel #286-292; Yvert #302-308). These twelve were printed in various colors and values on two kinds of material: (a) on thin cardboard, (b) on paper, watermarked with horizontal or vertical wavy lines. Some of these proofs are perforated 11½, while the others are imperforate.

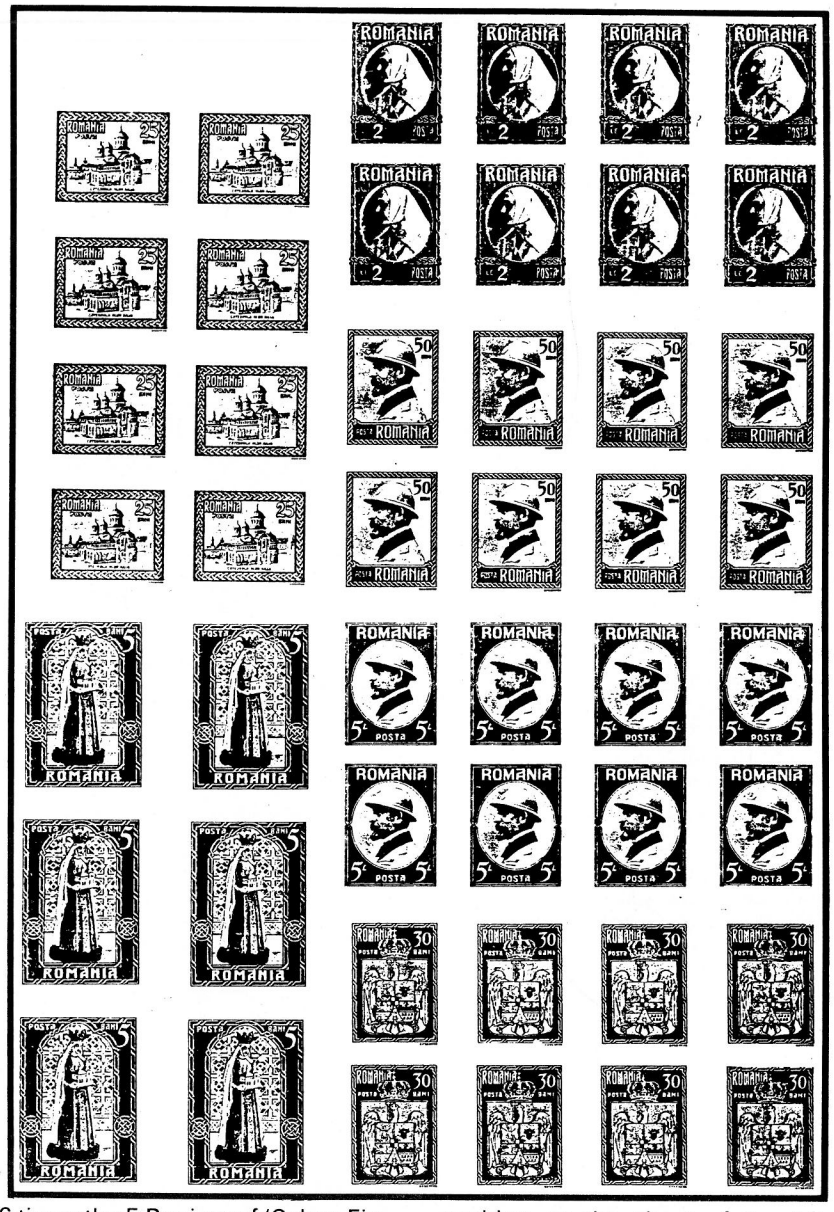
Cohen mentions that the proofs on paper with watermark were presented in sheets of 86 each containing the 12 proofs with 6 or 8 copies of each on the sheet. The Romanian Catalogue mentions the existence of proofs on watermarked paper and on thin cardboard, but when describing the ones on thin cardboard mentions them as on "ordinary paper". We believe that the authors of the Romanian catalogue meant to say that these are on thin cardboard. The way in which these proofs are presented in the Romanian catalogue might lead to the wrong conclusion that there are proofs on ordinary paper, without watermark. To the best of our knowledge such proofs on ordinary unwatermarked paper do not exist.

The collective proof whose description follows is on thin, white cardboard, measures approximately 17x25 cm., and contains 6 different proofs, each impressed a number of times, for a total of 46 items on the pane. All printing is in dark blue.

1) 8 times the 25 Bani proof of the accepted 5 Bani stamp (Cohen Fig. 98) with the designer's name on the lower right side of each proof.

2) 8 times the 2 Lei essay of the unaccepted design (Cohen Fig. 94) without the designer's name.

3) 8 times the 50 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 102) of the accepted 3 Lei stamp, with the designer's imprint.



4) 6 times the 5 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 105) of the accepted 6 Lei stamp, without the imprint.

5) 8 times the 5 Lei proof (Cohen Fig. 100) of the accepted 25 Bani stamp, without the imprint.

6) 8 times the 30 Bani proof (Cohen Fig. 101) of the accepted 50 Bani stamp with the imprint. The second item of the first row (30 Bani) has the lower frame borken. The existence of such an error is mentioned by Cohen (page 60).

This collective proof seems to have been part of a larger sheet which was cut vertically in 2 parts. Based on the above description we may presume that the printings on thin cardboard were also put up in sheets of 86 as on watermarked paper (described by Cohen), after all, it is likely that the arrangement of the various items would be the same, as the first test on cardboard would simply have been repeated on the type of paper that the printers actually intended to use for the finished product, that is watermarked. Unfortunately, Cohen does not give the position on the sheet of the 12 watermarked proofs. Such being the case, no comparison can be made between the collective proofs of the watermarked series and those on thin cardboard. If among the readers of "Romanian Philatelic Studies" there are owners of the complete sheet, or part of it, on either watermarked paper, or thin cardboard, they are urged to study and compare their holding in order to clarify whether there was one printing, with the same cliche arrangement, for both the watermarked paper and the thin cardboard series, or 2 separate printings, with different arrangements, on 2 kinds of materials.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently 3 similar sheets were sold at auction. They have the same cliche arrangment as the above and were printed in violet, blue and carmine. All were on thin cardboard.

Also, George McNamara of STAMPAZINE, New York, reports that his company has for sale three similar sheets on thin cardboard: olive-green, yellow and orange.

THE LATEST RECORDED USE OF THE PRINCE CUZA ISSUE

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London NW6 4RX, England

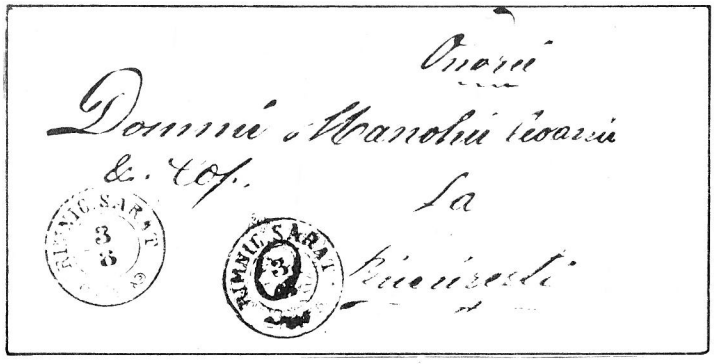
The specialized Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 informs us, on page 71, that the Cuza stamps
(a) continued to be valid for prepayment of postage after the abdication of the Prince on 23 February 1866,
(b) were withdrawn officially from circulation in Bucharest on 31 May 1866 and
(c) on 1 August 1866 from the provinces; however, certain rural offices did not replace them until December 1866.

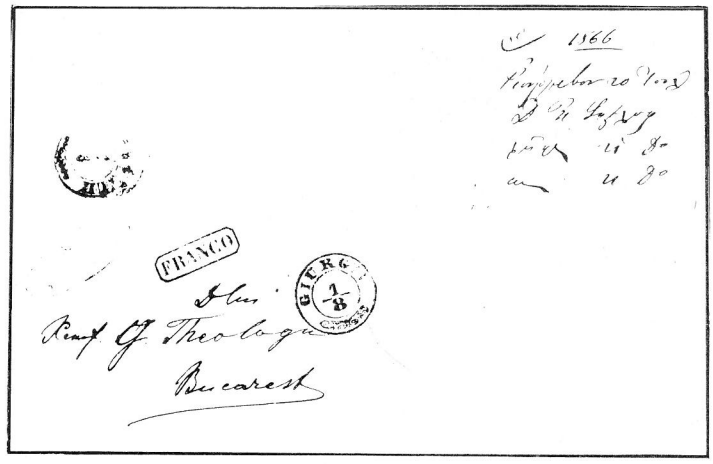
The same catalogue, on page 69, lists, as a late date of use, an 1866 letter from Ploesti to Braila, postmarked 3 July at the office of origin. Dr. L.N. Cristea and F. Heimbuchler indicate on page 5, Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 3#1978, the last day of usage known to them as being 31 July 1866.; however, it could be deduced from the introduction to their article that the authors, when quoting this date, probably do not refer to a specific piece of mail but rather to some other sort of data.

Below, I am able to present an 1866 entire letter, from Ramnicul Sarat to Bucharest, postmarked at origin on 3 August, this date being, from what I know at the moment, the latest recorded on a document bearing a Cuza adhesive; the written text and the recipient's annotation confirm this late date, in accordance with the Julian calendar, used by the populace.

As we see at (c) above, the adhesives in question were withdrawn from circulation at the provincial offices on 1 August 1866; on the other hand, the Romanian catalogue states on pages 74 and 84 that the first Prince Carol issue came into use on 8 August 1866. Therefore, notwithstanding occasional usage of the Cuza stamps after the date of their withdrawal, there was an official stampless period during 1 August to 8 August 1866, subject to, of course, the information given by the catalogue being up to date; I can show an 1866 entire letter, postmarked at Giurgiu on 1 August, the first day of this stampless period, the prepayment of postage certified by the apposition of the boxed FRANCO, instead of adhesives.

Notes: (1) All the dates indicated in the text of this article correspond with the Gregorian calendar, adopted by the Romanian post on 1/13 January 1865. (2) It should be emphasized that the above date of August 3, 1866 is the actual latest usage recorded so far and not the latest possible one; later usages could conceivably turn up, as the second part of point (c) of this communication clearly suggests.





THE EARLIEST POSTAL SEALS OF WALACHIA

Mihai Popa-Radu, Str. Cpt. Negoescu No. 12, 1000 Rimnicu Vilcea, Romania.

In Walachia, starting from the 18th century, the posts were concessioned for varying time periods to private entrepreneurs. In the first half of the 19th century, these concessions began using their own seals. They served to make the performance of the postal services appear official in capacity. The devices were made in such a way that they could be used either on wax, or with soot (at that time used instead of ink).

The shapes, texts and designs of the markings vary. The first markings known were oval, and came dated or undated. They bore heraldic designs such as: an eagle and a postal horn (in Rimnicu Sarat), an eagle and the date 1831 (in Zimnicea), a stagecoach and a winged person carrying a horn (in Ploiesti).

Starting in 1846, the shape of the seals became round and all illustrate a stagecoach, with or without an eagle and a year date: Braila (Fig. 1), Tirgoviste, Caineni and Buzeu with 1846, Craiova, Slatina (Fig. 2) and Caracal with 1851, Stirbei and Oltenita, on one common seal with 1853 Giurgiu with 1854 and another Caineni with 1856.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

One of these postal seals, unreported until now and from my own collection, is illustrated in Fig. 3. Found on a cover used in 1862, the marking, applied with soot, is dated 1856. Circular, it is 34 mm. in diameter. On the top, in a semi-circle, the Cyrillic lettering reads: "POSTA KAINENI". The center depicts a stagecoach with one passenger and four horses. A coachman is on one of the horses with whip in hand. At bottom, below the date "1856" are two ornamental branches.

Another seal from Caineni is known (Fig. 4), also dated 1856. This has a similar picture (stagecoach, four horses, one passenger, one driver) but the text, "KASA

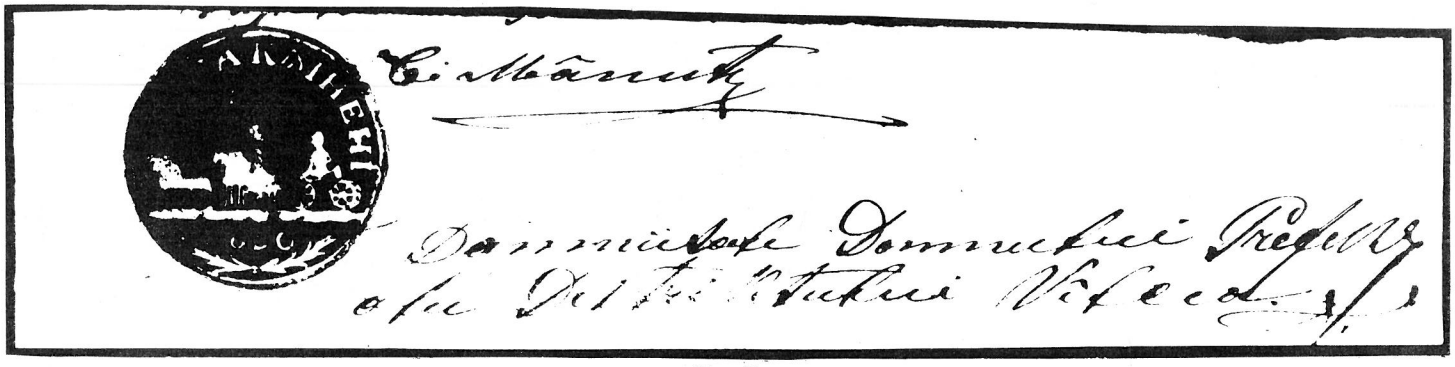


Fig. 3

POSTILOR DRUMULUI KAINENI" (Postal Directorate of the Caineni Department) differs.

Comparison of the two markings would indicate that both were made by the same person. Why was it necessary for one locality (or postal station) to use two different seals in the same year?

Other seals, with somewhat similar texts are known, such as "DIREKCIA POSTI DRUMU PLOESTI SI TARGOV 1846" (Postal Directorate of the department of Ploesti and Targov(iste) 1846); "DIREKCIA POSTII DRUMULUI KAINENI 1846" (Postal Directorate of the Caineni Department 1846); "KASA POSTELOR DR. DIN KRAIOVA 1851" (Postal Directorate of the Craiova Department 1851), (Fig. 5); "KASA BUKUREST DESP. DR. KRAIOVA 1851" (Bucharest Directorate Department Craiova 1851); and "DESPARTIREA POSTILOR DRUMULUI ORASULUI STIRBEI SI OLTENITA 1853" (Department of Posts of the city of Stirbei and Oltenita 1853).

The texts on these markings point out

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

the important postal routes of the period: to Ploiesti and Targoviste, to Caineni, to Craiova, to Calarasi (formerly Stirbei, 1852-1881) and Oltenita.

I assume that in Bucharest, the capital city, the posts were orgainzed in directorates (KASA) which routed correspondence, cash, etc. in the direction of various postal routes. Therefore, these were located in Bucharest and they used seals with the text "KASA BUKUREST" followed by "DESP. (artirea) DR. (umului)..." of various departments, servicing various routes. At the end of these routes were offices which used seals with the text "POSTA" and the name of the locality or "KASA POSTILOR DRUMULUI . . .".

Because early seals had a dual purpose - administrative and postal - they can be found on administrative documents as well as on postal matter. Accepting these early seals as having had postal usage, not only enriches postal history with significant items, but also allows moving up the start of the Romanian prephilatelic period from 1853 to 1831.

USE OF THE "PORTO" MARKING BY AUSTRIAN POSTS IN THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES

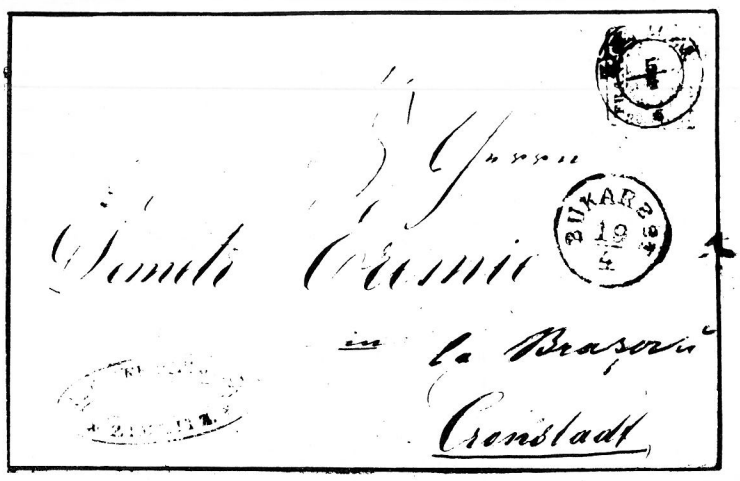
Norbert Blistyar, Str. M. Viteazul No. 2A, 1725 Bocsa, Romania.

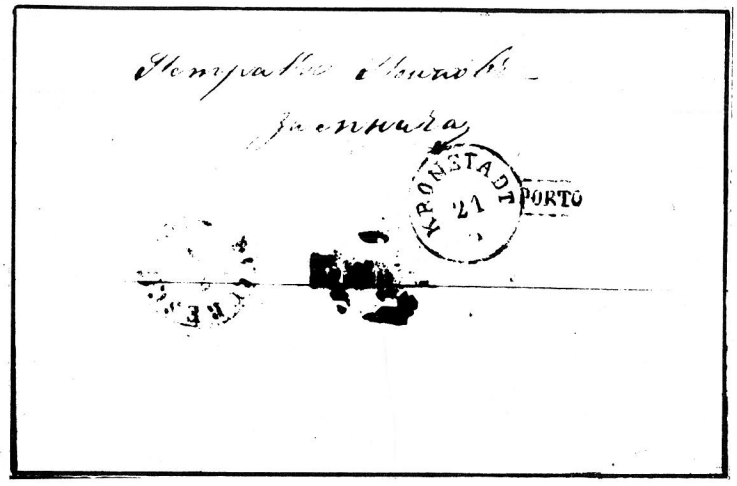
In addition to Dr. N. Tripcovici's article (published in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1980) about mixed franking sometimes found on covers used in Moldavia and Walachia, I wish to present additional information on cooperation between the Austrian and the Romanian posts.

The activities of the Austrian posts in the Romanian Principalities, before and after union, as well as during the start and operation of the Romanian posts, have already been described in detail in the afore mentioned and other articles, therefore I will not dwell on them. I will only repeat Dr. Tripcovici's conclusion, that mixed franking was due to the fact that until the signing of a postal agreement with Austria valid from April 1, 1969), mail sent to or from a locality in which there was no Austrian post office, was charged by the Romanian posts for the distance between that town and the nearest with an Austrian post office, and by the Austrian posts for the distance between their post office in Romania and the one abroad.

Regarding the second cover presented by Dr. Tripcovici, the question arises who paid for the two 30 parale stamps applied (and cancelled) in Galati? It is highly unlikely that it was done by the sender in Constantinople. The addressee in Birlad could not pay it either because some kind of transfer of money between the two posts offices (Birlad and Galati) would have been necessary, which would have been unprofitable considering the small amounts involved. It is also not very probable that the Galati post office affixed the stamps, valued at 60 parale, without anybody paying for them. Usually a letter was franked for the first portion of the route by the sender and was forwarded "postage due" on the second leg, to be paid at its destination by the addressee; therefore, the above mentioned letter should have been franked with Romanian stamps and cancelled in Birlad, not in Galati.

I present here, from my collection, a similar cover but mailed from Walachia to Austria. The letter, commercial in content, and addressed to Brasov was written on April 3 (April 15 by the new calendar), 1863, in Sistov, on the right side of Danube, in Bulgaria. It bears the marking of the company of Ivanovici & Nicolaevici in Sistov and it was sent first to an associate on the Romanian side of Danube, Petrake Poppovici of Zimnicea. He applied his own company marking, wrote his name on the back of the cover as sender, and then deposited it at the Romanian posts. Probably the existing political situation and postal connections of the area determined this unusual but efficient method of mailing. The letter, franked with one 30





parale, United Principalities, 1862 stamp, was obliterated with a black "ZIMNICEA", double circle cancellation with the date 5/4 (April 5). Because the address was written as "Cronstadt", the postal clerk considered it necessary to add "la Brasovu" (the Romanian name for Cronstadt). As is attested to by the (double circle - with arabesque, black) "BUCURESCII" postmark, the letter arrived at Bucharest on 7/4 (April 7), and was transferred on the same day to the Austrian posts. There, it received a T18 type black "BUKAREST" postmark with the date 19/4 (April 19), the apparent discrepancy between the 2 dates being due to the use of 2 different calendars - Julian and Gregorian.

As stamps issued by the principalities did not have franking privileges abroad, the Austrian postal clerk considered the letter unfranked and applied, on its back, in blue

ink, a framed "PORTO" service marking. On the cover's front he wrote "15", representing in Kreuzer the amount to be collected at the destination for carrying the mail from Bucharest to Brasov. Upon arrival, a black "KRONSTADT 21/4" (April 21) Austrian postmark was applied, overlaping the "PORTO" marking a bit. The addressee probably then paid the 15 Kreuzer postage due.

This "PORTO" marking is interesting, as it was reported by neither Gr. Racoviceanu nor H. Birnbach. In "Moldau-Walachei" by H. and B. Birnbach (1930), on page 47, Fig. 81 illustrates a similar cover, sent in 1866 from Craiova to Vienna, via Bucharest. It bears a similar "PORTO" marking, but without the frame, which was applied on the front of the cover. The table summarizing the Austrian postmarks does not list this "PORTO" marking. I emphasize once again that on my cover the "PORTO" marking is in blue, while all the other markings are black. While Austrian town cancellations and service markings (RECOM. and FRANCO) used during that period share the same styles and are identical as to form and lettering for all the Austrian post offcies, this "PORTO" marking is different and seems to have had a limited area of use. Perhaps it was locally made. On my cover, "PORTO" is between 2 parallel, horizontal lines, perhaps parts of a complete frame.

We invite other collectors to communicate any further information they may have regarding this marking.

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THE FIRST ROMANIAN POSTAL RECEIPTS, 1855-1900

Dumitru Passalega, Aleea Brancusi, bl.A2, sc.2, et.II, apt. 9, 1100 Craiova, Romania.

Postal receipts, to the sender of a letter or of cash, were proof that he mailed those items and took special measures to insure the shipment. By paying a supplementary postal tax, he was entitled to compensation if the shipment is lost. The shipment was recorded in the postal register, and the sender received successively: (a) A receipt showing that a shipment had been deposited at the post office to be mailed to the addressee and the amount which was paid. It was dated and signed by the chief of the post office. This portion of the procedures is commonly called "registration." (b) A receipt signed by the recipient in which he confirms receiving the shipment, indicating the date of delivery. This was what was later called "A.R." or "acknowledgement of receipt."

The names of these two documents have changed over the years. It is important to know that during the period up to the unification of the two Romanian Principalities, the operations of registration and acknowledgement were cumulative, constituting the operation of "recepisare", a Romanian word which means "making a receipt" or "registering." Thus, when paying the "taxa de recepisare" (registration fee) the sender would immediately receive the first receipt from the post office. Within one month, he would also get from the post office, the second receipt signed by the recipient. This replaced the first receipt.

The practice of issuing receipts for postal shipments was stipulated in "Conditiile Arenduirii Postelor" (Terms for Postal Concessions), the official rules regulating the postal services, which stated the obligations and the rights of entrepreneurs (in general for five year periods) from 1833 to 1861. Based on these rules and the results of the concession auctions, contracts with state subsidies were concluded, for servicing postal routes or portions of them. These rules provided that in Walachia, in general, for letters with "recepisa" (with receipts, that is registered) the postal charges be doubled, for example: "Those who, for the safety of the shipments, want receipts will pay double" (from the rules for August 1, 1833 to August 1, 1836). Art. 23 of the rules for August 1, 1856 to August 1, 1861, was more precise: "When somebody also wants to receive a receipt from the recipient of the letter then he will pay a double fee and the entrepreneur will give a receipt, marking the date and the paid fee and it will be his duty to produce a receipt proving that the letter was delivered with certainty and on time."

While in Greater Walachia (Muntenia) and in Little Walachia (Oltenia) registering the letters doubled the postage fee, in Moldavia the cost tripled. This can be seen from Administrative Council Memo no. 511 of February 23, 1852, approved by the Prince through the resolution of February 23, and communicated to the Department of Finance: "For ordinary letters, having one sheet of postal paper, the fee was a half 'tzvantzih' (svantz) for any distance, but for a letter with a printed receipt 1½ tzvantzih shall be paid per sheet of postal paper."

The earliest receipts known are those used in Moldavia in 1855. Examples are the printed documents nr.445 of March 10, 1855 on greenish paper (Figure 1) and nr.2459 of December 29, 1855, on yellowish-white paper (not illustrated), both from Jassy, of large format (21x18 cm., and 22x17 cm), without form number, written in transitional (from Cyrillic to Latin) lettering. The word "Ecspeditia" (dispatch) at the top of the text means the dispatching post office, and the printing reads:

Ecspeditia
S'au priimit...scris...de la D-lui...
Catre D-lui...spre a se triimite la...
slujind aceasta pina la priimirea rospiscei de la priimitorul scris...
Ecspeditor....
No.
Anul 185...
Luna...in...zile

Translation:
Dispatch(ing post office)
Received...lett(er)...from Mr.....
To Mr. ...for mailing to...
this being used until the receipt is received from the letter's recipient
Sender...
No.
Year 185...
Month...in...days

Receipts for mailing cash had similar content, form and size. The earliest known to me is from 1857. Examples of 2 different types, both with frame and heading, from the beginning of 1857, are: (a) A receipt for the mailing of a letter accompanying an amount of cash, given in Jassy to its sender, is also printed in transitional lettering. Its heading reads "Adeverinta" (receipt, certificate), and has no form number. It measures 24x13 cm., and shows the country's coat-of-arms centered on top. It bears No. 1851 and is dated January 21, 1857 (Figure 2). (b) A document signed by the recipient of a letter, also printed with letters of the transitional alphabet, has the heading "Retur-Recepisa" (Return-Receipt) and likewise shows no form number. Its size is 16x10 cm., but does not bear a coat-of-arms. Assigned number 62 by "Expeditia de Esii" (Jassy Dispatch), it is dated February 2, 1857 (Figure 3). Printed in the lower part is: "Rules to know. 1. The fee is paid by the sender of the letter. 2. This receipt will be returned to the dispatching office from which this letter was received, on the first day with postal activities."

The prephilatelic period ended in Moldavia in July 1858, when the four "Bison Head" stamps (27, 54, 81 and 108 parale) appeared, and in Walachia in June 1862, when the "United Principalities" (3, 6 and 30 parale) stamps were issued.

The two Danubian Principalities, both peopled by the one Romanian folk, with the same origins and speaking the same language, for a long time had constituted two separate states. On January 24, 1859, the two principalitites were united, but the administrative unification was not completed until December 1861. The two postal systems were finally united in May-June 1862.

During the Moldavian philatelic era, several types of receipt forms were used. While older forms remained in service, new forms were also issued. These were without form numbers and generally of the large 20x11 cm., size.

In "Monitorul Oficial al Moldovei" (Official Gazette of Moldavia) No. 35 of March 5, 1859, the following announcement of the "Directia Postelor si Delijanselor" (Directorate of Post and Stagecoaches) was published:

"The editor has been asked to publish in the first issues that the printing of a large number of various mailing forms will be required, thus, printers and lithographers desiring to participate in this work should come on March 10, 1859, to this Directorate, where they will be shown those forms."

The new forms continued the practice of utilizing the transitional alphabet. They display form numbers ("Posta No...."). With these form numbers, a new stage in issuing postal receipts started in Moldavia and lasted until the postal unification of the two principalities.

The mailing forms are 16-17 x 10-11 cm., and have various headings such as: "Recipisa Postala" (Postal Receipt) or "Retepisa Postala" (different spelling) for letters and "Adiverintza Postala" (Postal certificate or receipt) or "Adverintza Postala (different spelling) for cash shipments.

The form numbers were: "Posta No. 2" for letter receipts and "Posta No. 16" for cash-shipment receipts.

As examples, we give receipt No. 299 of December 26, 1860, from the Jassy office (Figure 4) and No. 238 of May 22, 1861, (not illustrated) from the Galati office. On these receipts there appear for the first time the words "Scrisoare recomandata" (Registered letter). Also for the first time the we find the charges separated for "franko" (normal postage), "recomandatie" (registration) and "retur-retepisa" (return receipt).

For forms used for cash shipments we give as examples receipt No. 569 of March 14, 1860, (Figure 5), No. 5 of February 5, 1859 (Figure6), and No. 1232 of May 25, 1860, both from the Jassy office. Receipt

No. 747 of April 17, 1861, (not illustrated) printed using Latin letters stands in contrast with previous ones printed with the transitional alphabet. This receipt refers to a letter unfranked by the sender, for which the addressee had to pay "Porto" (postage due) 36 lei and 21 parale.

In the July 1858 - May 1862 period, both the older forms (example: Retur-Recepisa No. 25 of February 9, 1860), and newer forms were used to confirm receipt by the addressee. The heading on the new forms is "Adiverinta innapoeata" (Returned certificate or receipt) and the form numbers are: "Posta No. 3" for letters (example: receipt No. 93 of June 20, 1860, from the Mihaileni office) and "Posta No. 17" for cash shipments (example: receipt No. 89 of October 27, 1860, also from the Mihaileni office).

In Walachia, forms with the "RETUR-RECIPIS" heading continued in use. As an example we illustrate one used in Bucharest and having the coat-of-arms of the United Principalities (No. 1338 of February 28, 1862, Figure 7).

After the unification of the two principalities' postal systems, new receipts with form numbers were used throughout Romania:

a) For receipts given to those who deposited registered letters the heading was "Recipisa de Priimire" (Receipt for reception) and the form number, at first was "Posta No. 2" and later "Posta No. 63". In their contents these had separate spaces to indicate the fees paid for "porto" (the fee for transporting the letter), "recomandatie" (registration" and "retur recipisa" (return receipt). Forms printed before 1868 show the old monetary "parale" units abbreviated as "par". Those printed after January 1868 are inscribed "bani" the new currency. Nevertheless, at times old receipt forms, with "par" were used with the fees actually paid in "bani" (examples: on December 10, 1869, in Calafat, (Figure 8) and on February 28, 1870, in Craiova).

To attest to receiving cash from the post office, smaller forms (11x14 cm.) with a "QUITANTA" (receipt) heading were used.

b) The forms used for confirmation of receipt of registered letters by the recipient, had the heading "RECEPISE DE INAPOERI" (retour-receipt) which is the Romanian translation of the term used by the Austrian posts: "Retour-Recepisse". As examples we give receipt No. 2018 of December 1, 1869, from Jassy, No. 167 of December 20, 1869 from Birlad, and some receipts with slightly modified headings such as: "Recepisa de inapoieri" (No. 35 of March 7, 1878, from Dorohoi, Figure 9) and "RECEPISA DE INAPOIARE" (No. 477 of September 20, 1890, from Romania).

During the same period, for mail sent abroad, bilingual (French and Romanian) return receipts were used; the heading "RECEPISSE A RENVOYER" shows its Romanian counterpart "Recepisa de inapoiere" beneath it (example: receipt No. 1361 of September 16, 1881, from Jassy, or the same "RECEPISSE A RENVOYER" but under it in capital letters "RECEPISA DE INAPOERE" (example: receipt No. 777 of December 9, 1884, from Jassy). The form number of these receipts is "FORM. 239".

Later a receipt was used with the heading "AVIS DE PRIMIRE" (notice of receiption), (example: No. 14505 of July 11, 1902, Figure 10), a name which explains the existence on some covers of the postal service marking "A.P." (which is quite rare). For foreign mail, forms with text and heading entirely in French were used, the heading being "AVIS DE RECEPTION" (notice of receipt), (example: No. 1813 of July 6, 1888, from the General Post Office of Bucharest) which generated the widely used "A.R." postal service marking.

The importance of such documents, signed by the recipients and returned to the senders, also lies in the fact that they bear postal markings and sometimes even stamps to pay the special fees.

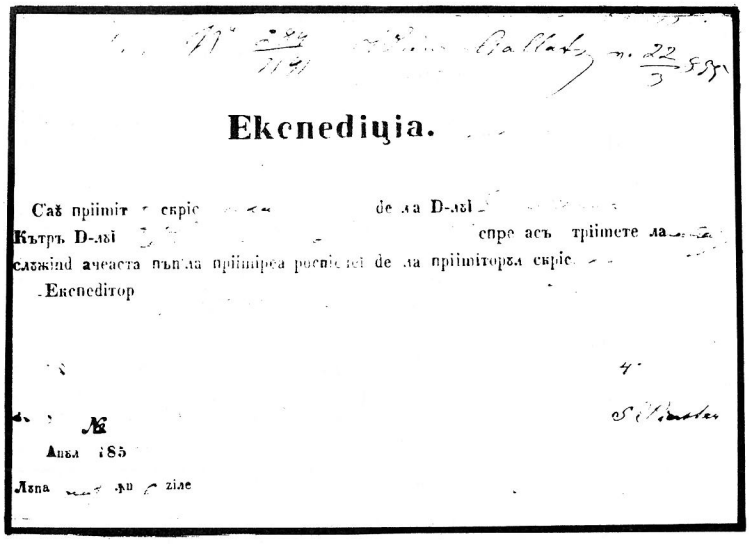
Ekcnediția.

Fig. 1. "Ecspeditia", one of the earliest receipts, used on March 10, 1855, in Jassy.

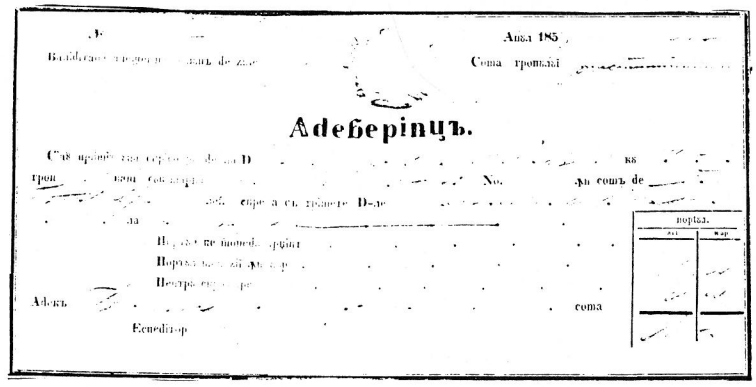
Adeverinț.

Fig. 2. "Adeverinta", receipt for letter and cash shipment, used on January 21, 1857.

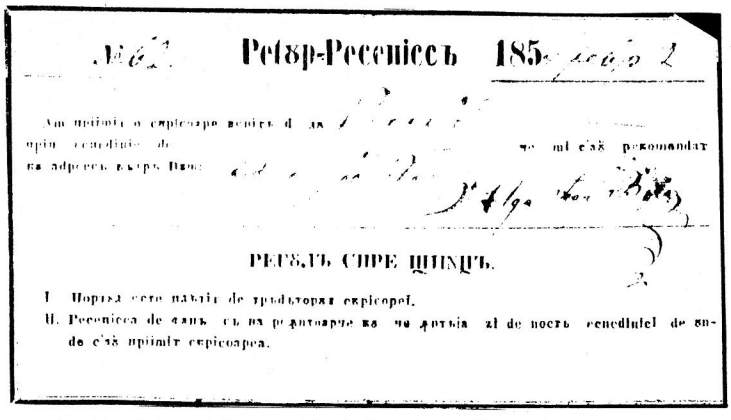
Retur-Recepisse 185

Fig. 3. One of the earliest "Retour-Recepisse", used on February 2, 1857.

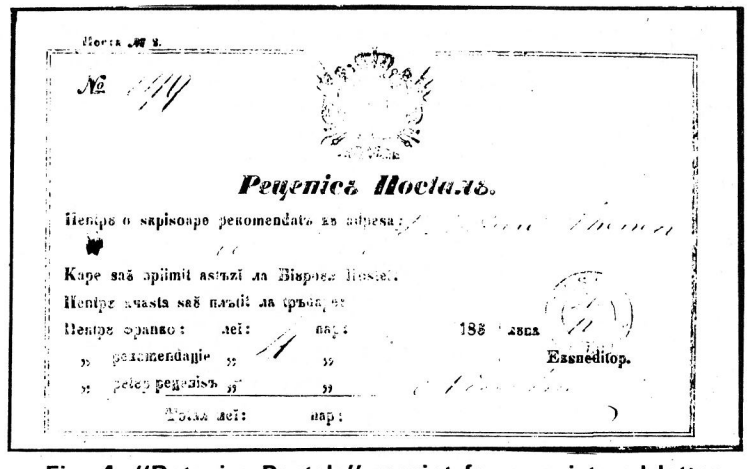
Recepisa Postala.

Fig. 4. "Retepisa Postala" receipt for a registered letter mailed on December 26, 1860.

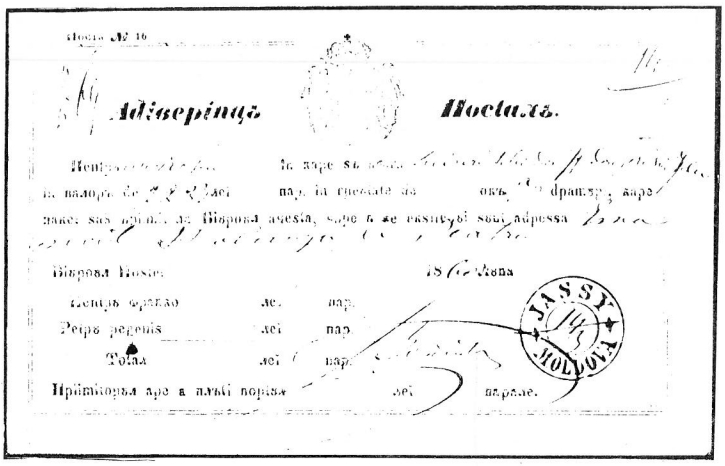

Fig. 5. "Adeverinta Postala" receipt for cash, mailed on March 14, 1860.

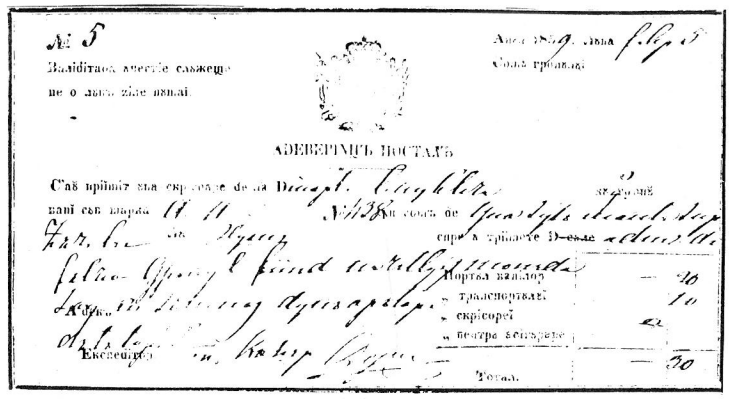

Fig. 6. "Adeverinta Postala" receipt for a letter accompanying cash shipment, mailed on February 5, 1859.

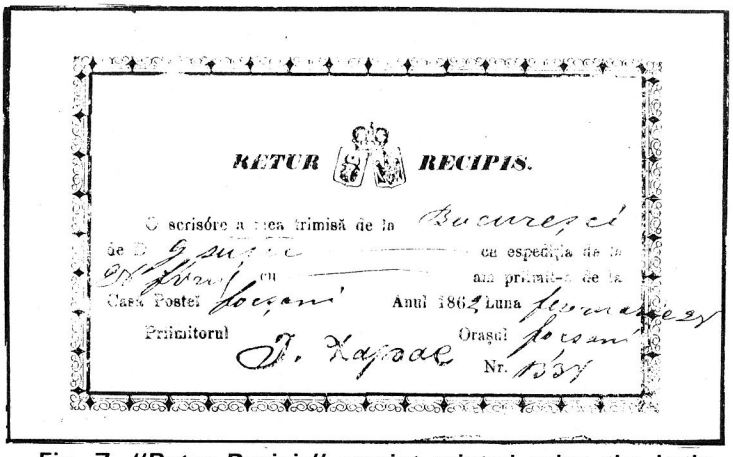

Fig. 7. "Retur Recipis" receipt printed using the Latin alphabet, used on February 28, 1862.

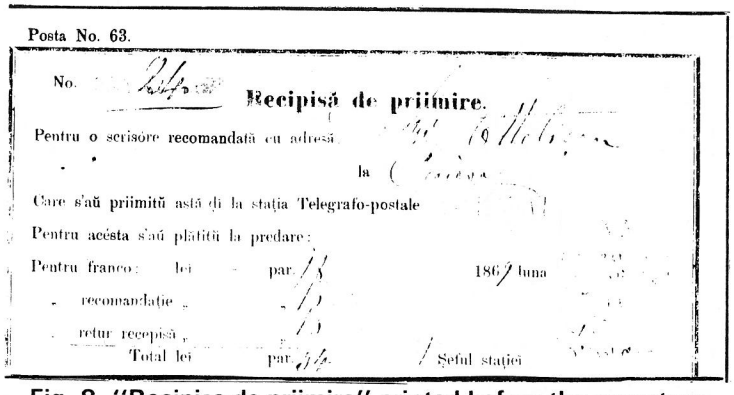

Fig. 8. "Recipisa de priimire" printed before the monetary reform but used after, on December 10, 1869.

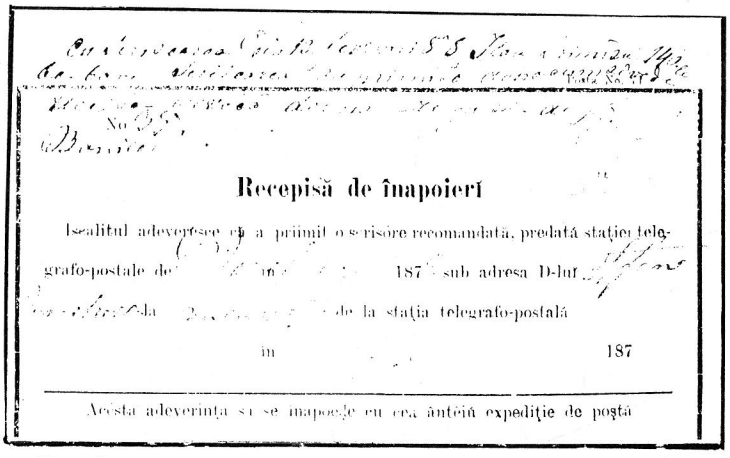

Fig. 9. "Recipisa de inapoperi", return-receipt used on March 7, 1878.

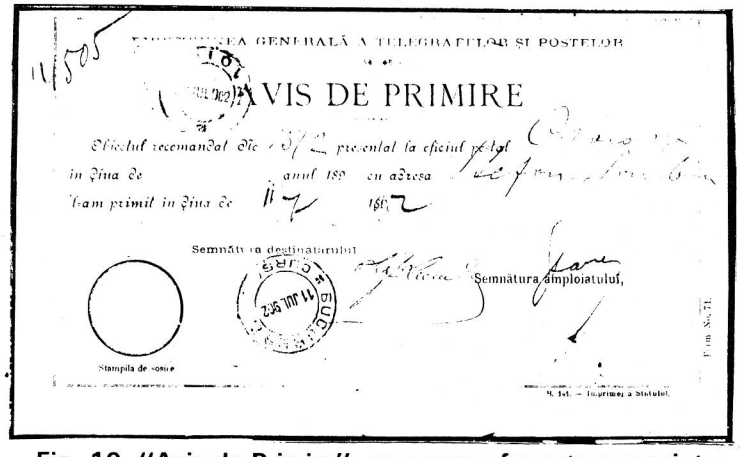

Fig. 10. "Avis de Primire", new name for return-receipt, used on July 11, 1902.

REVIEW:

INDRUMATOR AL FILATELISTULUI

(Philatelist's Guide)

Published in Romanian language by the Bucharest chapter of A.F.R., 1980; 291 pages, 15 Lei.

Contains several excellent studies:

"Romanian Postal Stationery, 1966-1979" by Dumitru Biala (132 pages) describes postal cards, greeting cards, illustrated postal cards, envelopes, etc., all with imprinted stamps.

"On the Romanian River and Maritime Transport, Foreign Navigation Postmarks Used in the Danubian and Black Sea Ports, Shipboard Markings on Romanian Rivers and Maritime Vessels, and Cruises made to Various Romanian and Foreign Ports" is a well illustrated study by Mihail Popovici (31 pages).

"Studies, Collections and Exhibits" by Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici is a 37 page essay treating these subjects.

"Branch Post Offices in Bucharest during the 1865-1916 period" by Dumitru Passalega is well documented and an excellent postal history study (38 pages).

"The Large Postal Horn" by Mihail Bauer deals with the personal cancellation devices used by the mailmen in Bucharest (11 pages).

The last chapter, "Documentary", gives the stagecoach schedules on 48 routes, starting March 20/April 1, 1869, and 18 pre-philatelic and stamped covers from the Gheorghe Negulescu collection are illustrated (24 pages).

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC PERIODICALS

George Pataki

In "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane" (Romanian Philatelic Society's Magazine) No. 5 of 1941, a list appears of early Romanian philatelic publications. The list was extracted from "Publicatiile Periodice Romanesti, I" (Romanian Periodical Publications, I) by Nerva Hodos and Al. S. Ionescu, published in 1913 in Bucharest.

It is amazing to note the intense philatelic activity in Romania, expressed in specialized philatelic publications, so early in its history. Before Romania even had the "Carol with Vulture" set (only 56 Romanian stamps had been issued by that time), the first Romanian exclusively philatelic magazine TIMBROPHILO (published five years before the first issue of the prestigious "L'Echo de la Timbrologie") was already organizing, informing and instructing Romanian philatelists.

We present below a list of philatelic magazines and bulletins, the city they appeared in, their known periods and frequency of publication, size, price, editors, printers, etc.:

1. **BULETINUL TELEGRAFO-POSTALE**-Bucharest, started on February 1, 1870, as the official journal of the Department of Posts but containing valuable information for philatelists. 20x27 cm., 20 lei/year. Monthly, later twice a month. Editor: Th. N. Augustin, printed by "Tipografia Statului"; from January 1, 1901 to January 1, 1902, by Thoma Basilescu; from that date again by "Tipografia Statului".

2. **POSTA**-Galati; presumably from 1880; published by the Postal Administration but also containing information for philatelists; 3 times a week; in 1892, 20 lei/year; 10 bani/issue.

3. **TIMBROPHILO**-Bucharest, January to March, 1881; monthly; 24x33 cm., 4.50 lei/year. Printer: Stefan Mihailescu.

4. **CURIERUL MARCILOR POSTALE**-Pitesti; December 15, 1890-January 1891; monthly; 2.50 lei/year. Printer: I.M. Lazar.

5. **MONITORUL SOCIETATII FILATELICE ROMANE- LE MONITEUR DE LA SOCIETE PHILATELIQUE ROUMAINE**-Bucharest; September-December 1892; monthly; 22x28 cm., 2 lei/year; 25 bani/issue. Published in Romanian and French by the Committee of the Romanian Philatelic Society. In October its name was changed to "Organ Filatelic Special pentru Romania".

6. **ROMANIA FILATELICA**-Jassy; September 1893; monthly illustrated magazine; 24x33 cm., 2 lei/year; 25 bani/issue. Published in Romanian and French by the Philatelic Society of Jassy. Editor: Alfred A Rothenberg, printer: Petru C. Popovici.

7. **POSTA ROMANA**-Focsani; April 15/27, 1895; monthly; 24x33 cm., 3 lei/year; 25 bani/issue. National philatelic paper; director: Garabet Aslan; printer: M.J. Cremnitzer.

8. **ECOUL MARCILOR**-Focsani; May 10, 1895; monthly. Published in French by the "Moldova" Philatelic Society and "Mercur" of Focsani; printer: Al. Codreanu.

9. **RUMANISCHER PHILATELIST**-Bucharest; May 1, 1896; 24x33 cm., monthly; 1.25 lei/year. Editor: Oscar D. Perlman; in German and Romanian.

10. **LE TIMBROPHILE ROUMAINE.** From the March 3/15, 1897 issue of "Anunciatorul Marcilor" it appears that this was published in Bucharest, in February 1897.

11. **ANUNCIATORUL MARCILOR**-Jassy; March 3/15, 1897; 24x33 cm., monthly 1.50 lei/year; 20 bani/issue. Philatelic journal for collectors and dealers. Director: I. Saraga; printed by "Miron Costin" company; in Romanian, French and German.

12. **FILATELIA ROMANA**- Barlad; September 25-October 25, 1898; 17x24 cm., 1 lei/year; 10 bani/issue. Monthly philatelic journal for collectors and dealers. Director/owner: Theodoresco; printer: George Catafany, later S. Gross.

13. **TIMBROFILUL**-Bucharest; November 1890-March 1893; monthly. It is the continuation of TIMBROPHILO. 2 lei/year. Printed by Dor. P. Cucu in Romanian and French, later by Thoma Basilescu. In August 1892 the subtitle of "Organ al Timbrologiei in Romania" was changed to "Organ al Societatii Romane de Timbrologie".

14. **TIMBRU**-Constanta; March 8, 1900-1902; 20x29 cm., philatelic and literary paper. Director: T. Mantu; Printer: Marin Purea, "Romana" printing plant.

15. **RUMANISCHES BRIEF-MARKEN-OFFERTENBLATT**-Jassy; March 15, 1901; 17x21 cm., monthly, editor: Solomon Spiegler.

16. **LA ROQMANIE PHILATELIQUE**-Bucharest; December 1904-February 28, 1905; 16x24 cm., monthly; 1.50 lei/year. Director: Etienne Constantinovitch; printing plant: "Munca". From January 31, 1905 on, the subtitle "Organe Officiel de la Societe Philatelique Roumaine" appears on the cover.

17. **LA ROUMANIE TIMBROPHILE**-Bacau; March-November 1905; 24x33 cm., monthly; 1.20 lei/year. Director: Herman Rosenberg; printer: J.B. Hazu.

18. **LE MONITEUR PHILATELIQUE**-Bucharest; started on January 15, 1906; 17x21 cm., 50 bani/issue; monthly magazine for philately and deltiology, in Romanian and French. Printer: M.M. Antonescu; "Grivita" printing plant.

19. **FILATELIA**-Braila; February 1905-1906, 17x24 cm., published weekly by "L'Union Philatelists Roumaine"; 4 lei/year; 10 bani/issue. Printed by "Artistica".

20. **LA POSTE**-Braila; October 1906-November 1906; once every two months; 24x33 cm., 1 lei/year. Editor: Victor Gutman (in October 1906); printed in "Minerva" plant.

21. **LA PHILATELIE**-Braila; November 16, 1906-March 1907; continuation of La Poste; once every two months; from December 1906 became monthly; 2.50 lei/year; 15 bani/issue. Director: Kostomyris.

22. **FILATELISTUL ROMAN**-Bucharest, April 1921; monthly, 24 lei/year, 3 lei/issue, published by "Societatea Timbrofila Romana".

23. **FILATELISTUL**-Jassy, 1923.

24. **ROMANIA FILATELICA**-Braila, 1923-24 and 1926.

25. **DER BANATER PHILATELIST**-Timisoara; 1920-1926, in 1925 100 lei/year; 15 lei/issue, 16x23 cm., monthly; in Romanian and German. Editor: Dr. Desiderius Urmenyi, printer: Pregler.

26. **FILATELISTUL UNIVERSAL**-Ploiesti; 1923-24.

27. **LE PHILATELISTE MONDIAL**-Ploiesti; 1924; in Romanian and French.

28. **NOUL CURIER FILATELIC**-Ploiesti; 1924.

29. **LA REVUE POUR TOUS**-Craiova; 1925-27.

30. **SCHIMB CLUB ROMAN**-Craiova; from 1925 printed by "Speranta"; from 1934 printed in Bucharest by "Isvorul". Editor: Traian Turtureanu. Quarterly, later monthly; 80 lei/year; 6 lei/issue.

31. **REVISTA POSTALA TELEGRAFICA SI TELEFONICA**-Bucharest; from January 1926. Offical organ for employees of the Department of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone, with useful information for philatelists. 200 lei/year for public; 120 lei/year for personnel P.T.T., 16x23 cm., printer: E. Marvan.

32. **ECOUL FILATELIC**-Piatra Neamt; 1926.

33. **L'ECHANGISTE**-Galati; 1925.

34. **ECOUL TIMBRELOR ROMANE**-Braila; 1926.

35. **BULETINUL CARTO-FILATELIC**-Craiova; 1927-29.

36. **BAZARUL FILATELIC**-Barlad; 1928-1929.

37. **COLECTIONARUL DE MARCI POSTALE**-Bucharest; 1929.

38. **COLECTIONARUL ROMAN**-Bucharest; 1929.

39. **FILATELIA PENTRU TOTI**-Bucharest; January 1, 1932 to October 1933; monthly; 16x23 cm., 70 lei/year; 6 lei/issue. Editor: H. Dragu.

TIMBROPHILO

JURNAL · PHILATHELISTICU · ROMAN

Redactiunea si administratiunea la Libraria Steinberg & Wortmann, Calea Victoriei, 16.

TIMBROFILUL

REVISTA MENSUALA

Organ al timbrologiei în Romania

REDACTIA SI ADMINISTRATIA

27, STRADA MOSILEU, 27.

BUCURESCI

MONITORUL SOCIETATEI FILATELICE ROMANE

Le moniteur de la société philatélique roumaine.

Bucureşti, Septembre 1892.

FILATELIA

Revistă pentru colecţiuni

ANUL I.—No. 1. Exemplarul 15 BANI BRAILA, 21 FEBRUARIE 1906.

Către cititori

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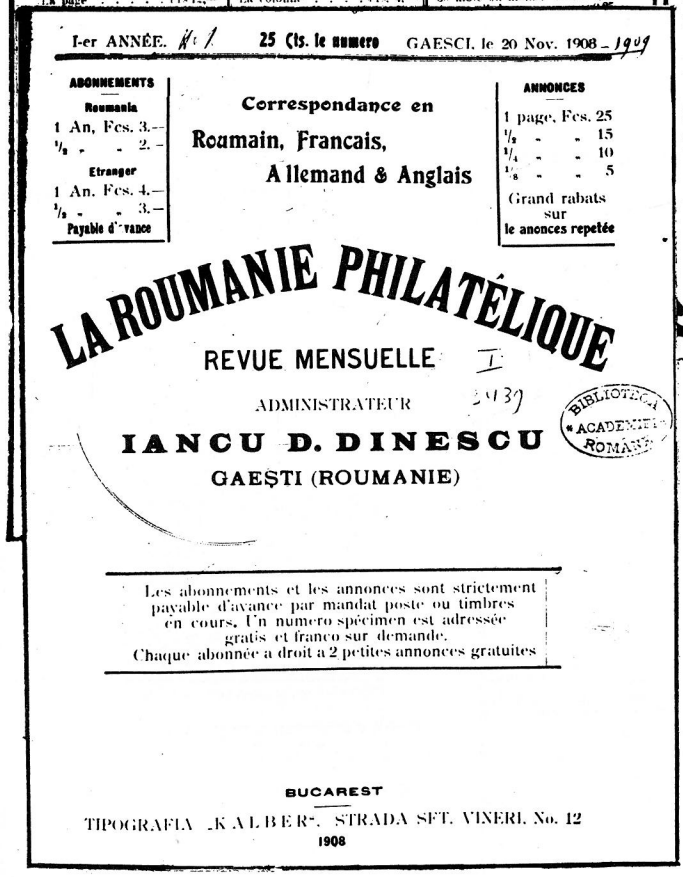

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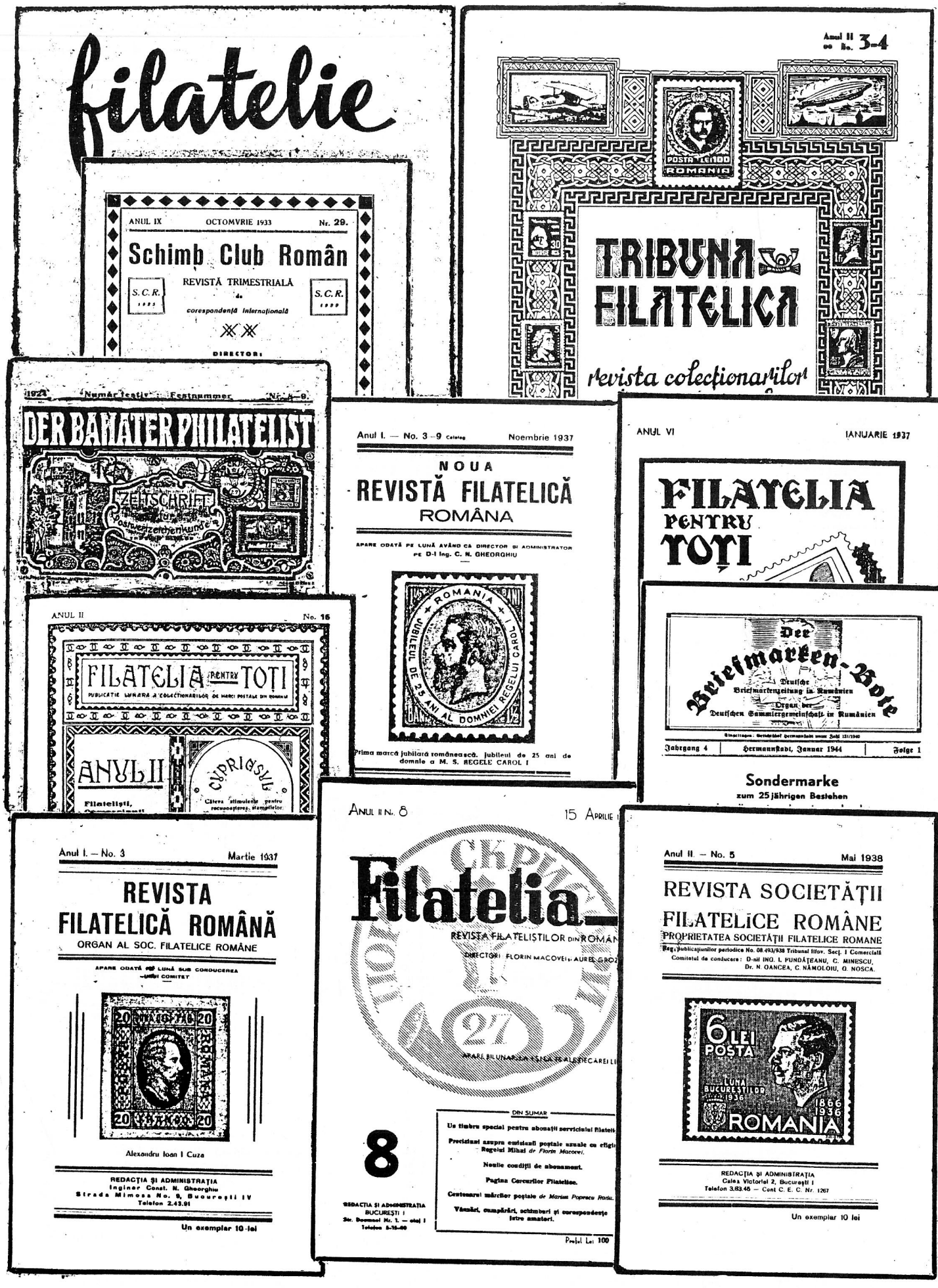
filatelie
ANUL IX OCTOMVRIE 1933 Nr. 29.
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REVISTĂ TRIMESTRIALĂ
de
corespondenţă internaţională
S.C.R. 1933
S.C.R. 1933
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Anul II No. 3-4
TRIBUNA FILATELICA
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ROMANIA
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PUBLICAŢIE LUNARĂ A COLECŢIONARILOR DE MĂRCI POŞTALE DIN ROMÂNIA
ANUL II
CIPRIANUS
Filateliști,
Cîteva stimulente pentru recuperarea timbrelor.
Der
Briefmarken-Bote
Deutsche
Briefmarkenzeitung in Rumänien
Organ der
Deutschen Sammlergemeinschaft in Rumänien
Jahrgang 4 Hermannstadt, Januar 1944 Folge 1
Sondermarke
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REVISTA SOCIETĂŢII
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6 LEI POSTA
LUNA BUCUREŞTILOR 1936
1866 1936
ROMANIA
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Calea Victoriei 2, Bucureşti I
Telefon 3.63.45 — Cont C. E. C. Nr. 1267
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40. **FILATELIA PENTRU TOTI**-Bucharest; November 1933-1934 (?) monthly; 23.5x31 cm., 100 lei/year; 10 lei/issue. Editor: Dr. Arnold Jaszlowitz.

41. **BALKAN-POST**-Timisoara, 1930-32.

42. **TRIBUNA FILATELICA** - Bucharest; December 1931-33; 24x32.5 cm., monthly; later twice a month; 200 lei/year; 15 lei/issue. Editor: Alexandru Dojan-Aldo.

43. **JURNALUL FILATELIC**-Ploiesti; 1934-35.

44. **REVISTA FILATELICA ROMANA**-Bucharest; January 1937-June 1937; from July 1937 to May 1938 (?) NOUA REVISTA FILATELICA ROMANA; 16x23 cm., 10 issues/year; 100 lei/year; 10 lei/issue. Director: C.N. Gheorghiu.

45. **REVISTA SOCIETATII FILATELICE ROMANE**-Bucharest, separated from Noua Revista Filatelica Romana; July 1937 to 1944; 16x23 cm., monthly; 100 lei/year; 10 lei/issue. Director: Constantin Minescu.

46. **DER RUMANISCHE PHILATELIST**-Vatra Dornei; 1938.

47. **FILATELIA**-Cernauti; 1938.

48. **FILATELIA**-Bucharest; 1940-41.

49. **DER BRIEFMARKEN-BOTE**-Sibiu; 1941-44; monthly in German; 15x23 cm., in 1944 400 lei/year. Director: Norbert Schuster; editor: Ludwig Dengel.

50. **FILATELIA**-Bucharest; 1944-48; twice a month; 17x24 cm., in 1945, 2000 lei/year; 100 lei/issue; in July 1947 (inflation) 15,000 lei/issue. Directors: Florin Macovei and Aurel Grozea.

51. **ARIP** philatelic supplement-Bucharest; 1946-47.

52. **FILATELIE,** later **FILATELIE-SAH-CUVINTE INCRUCISATE**-Bucharest; published twice a month by "Universul", 1944-50 (?), 18-25.5 cm. In 1950, 450 lei/year; 20 lei/issue.

53. **FILATELIE**-Bucharest; October 1950 to 1953 (?). Published by the Administration of Posts and Telecommunications, 20 lei/issue.

54. **FILATELIA**-Bucharest; 1952 to date; first published once every two months; from January 1958, monthly. 21.5x29.5 cm., 24 lei/year; 2 lei/issue. Published by the Philatelists' Association of Romania. Foreign subscriptions through ILEXIM, P.O. Box 136-137, Bucharest, Romania.

55. **MARINA**-Constanta; started in April 1978, continuation of Marinar Expres. 21x29.5 cm. Free on demand. Editor: Virgiliu Moroianu, "Dobrogea" printing plant.

56. **BULETIN INFORMATIV**-Timisoara; started in August 1979; published 3-4 times a year; free for postage. 14.5x20.5 cm. Editor: Mircea Telegut.

Any additions and/or corrections to this listing are welcomed by the author.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF GRID CANCELS

Silviu Dragomir,

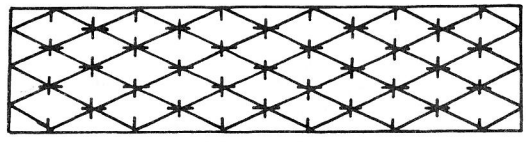
Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

In 1865, Romanian post offices started using grid cancellations. Belonging to the "dateless", "mute" or "killer" category, such cancellations were used to obliterate stamps, in combination with dated town markings of those offices. As this procedure of using 2 different cancellers was proved impractical, use of the grid canceller was abandoned by most post offices. Some offices however, continued to use them for a long time, even on the stamps of the "Wheat Ear" issues, as late as 1906.

Three main types of grid cancels have been recorded:

GR.1. (according to the classification system adopted in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974). The "Grid with Stars" (Fig. 1) has the most elaborate design: it is rectangular, has a 67.5x16.5 mm. frame, and the grid is made up of 18 obliquely intersected lines, forming 28 complete rhomboids, 14 half-rhomboids and 4 quarter-rhomboids in the corners. At the intersection of the oblique lines are short vertical and horizontal lines (crosses); thus each intersection looks like a small star. It was put in use on January 15/28, 1865, and was only used experimentally in one of the post offices in Bucharest until February 16/28 of the same year. Its use was discontinued because the prototype was considered impractical, uncomfortable to use and too expensive to produce. It is sometimes incorrectly designated the "Princely Grid" as it was thought to have been used only by the post office of the Prince's palace.

Fig. 1



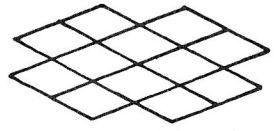


Fig. 2

GR.2. The "Simple Grid" (Fig. 2) is made up of 12 ordinary rhomboids without additions. Distributed to all existing post offices, its size varies slightly between 30-34 mm. in length and 14-16 mm. in width, creating several subtypes according to sizes.

GR.3. The "Double Grid" (Fig. 3) looks much like the previous one, being about the same size, but is made up of double lines. It was used only by the Jassy post office, starting in 1869. This "Double Grid" is scarce because it was used only at one of the many post offices of the country and because its use started later than the others. Also, its attractive appearance (Fig. 4) has added to its high value as the attention of collectors of rare and beautiful items has naturally gravitated towards the "Double Grid".

Fig. 3

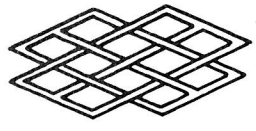


Fig. 4

Over the years, other grid cancellations (Fig. 5) have appeared on the market and in collections. Such are similar to the double grid cancel but with important differences. This cancel was redrawn in Fig. 6. While upon superficial examination it can be mistaken for a double grid cancel, on a closer look the differences become evident. On all parts of it, characteristics (Fig. 7 right) can be found which exclude any doubt. Some philatelists consider this

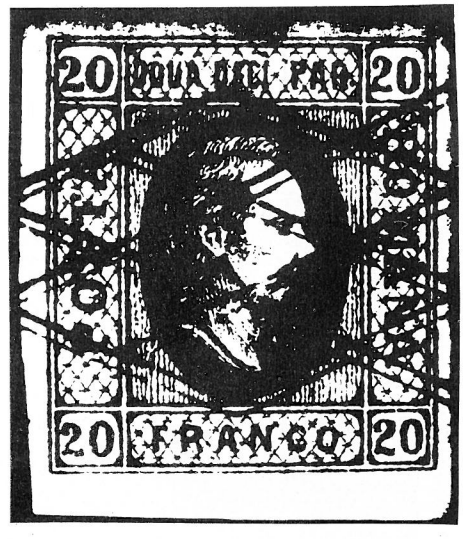
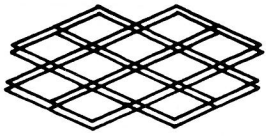


Fig. 5

cancel, which we shall identify as GR.2x., as a fourth type of grid cancel and it was

even the subject of a paper presented at the International Symposium for Romanian Philately, held during the London 80 Exhibition. Careful examination of the "fourth" grid cancel (again see Fig. 7) shows it is, without any doubt, a simple grid cancel, twice applied. Therefore we will call GR.2x. the "Double Strike - Simple Grid" cancel.

Fig. 6



Many such grid cancels appear to have been created by double striking as evidenced either by the lack of perfect parallelism between the lines, due to a slight rotation after the first strike (Fig. 8) or by differences in the supposedly same cancel applied more than once on the same corresdpondence (Fig. 9). We wonder whether we are dealing with a simple mistake or a hoax.

As proof of the creation of the "Double Strike - Simple Grid" by mistake we have the following arguments:

a) The evident carelessness in applying some of these cancellations (Fig. 8), which excludes the desire to purposely create a double grid.

b) Striking on the same piece of mail, at the same post office, of 2 or 3 grids with slightly different characteristics (Fig. 9) suggests careless handling because the existence and use of 2 or 3 different grids at the same office can hardly be accepted.

c) This kind of "Double Strike - Simple Grid" can be found on mail handled by any post office. Therefore, they can not be localized.

On the other hand, the possibility of a hoax or fraud is advanced by the following arguments:

a) Creation of rare and valuable items was made simpler by prolonged use (over 40 years) at some post offices of the simple grids.

b) The suspicious accuracy in creating these double strikes (Fig. 5), is some instances.

c) The evident care taken to avoid applying on the stamp the sharp corners of the simple grid cancel, which show the most distinctive characteristics of the double strike.

d) The large number of these "Double Strike - Simple Grids" found applied during the same period and under the same working conditions with other types (circular date cancellations), which were doubly struck.

e) The constant distance between the parallel lines (0.8-1.0 mm.) which is almost always the same as the distance between the lines of the double grid.

CONCLUSION

1. In Romania, between 1865-1906, only 3 types of grid cancellations were used.

2. The true double strike can easily be identified according to its characteristics shown in Fig. 7.

3. The Double Strike - Simple Grid is the result of either careless handling (but still a legitimate postal procedure), or a tentative fraud. In either case, the high value sometimes attributed to such "Double Strike - Simple Grids" cannot be justified.

Fig. 7

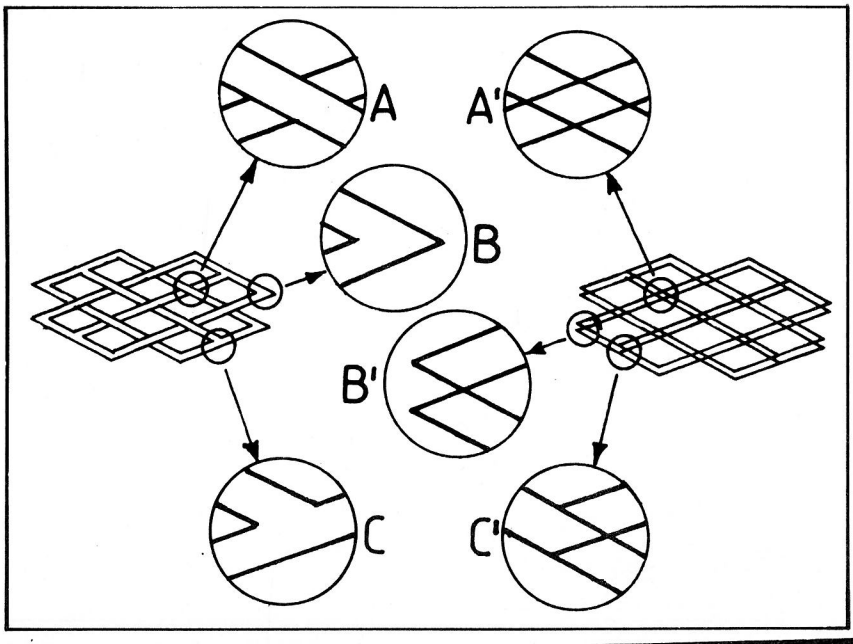


Fig. 8

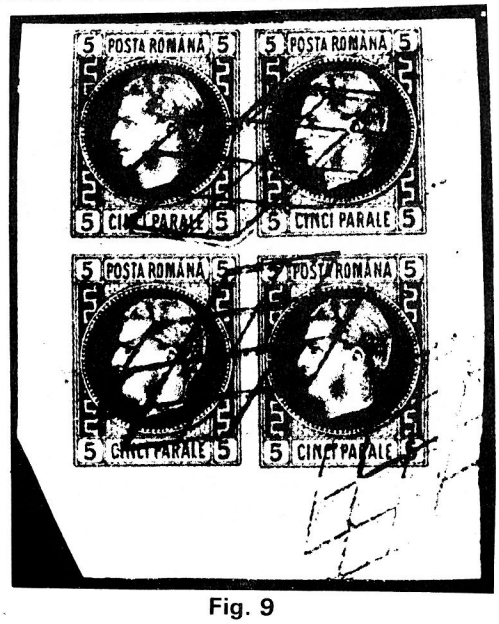


Fig. 9

REVIEW:

ALMANAHUL FILATELIC

(Philatelic Almanac) 1980

Published in Romanian language, in Bucharest, by Rompresfilatelia, 1980; 248 pages, 17 lei.

Like the other philatelic almanacs which appeared in previous years, this one also has political articles, poems, crossword puzzles, rebuses, epigrams, cartoons, anecdotes, etc., having nothing at all to do with philately. On the other hand, there are numerous philatelic articles worth mentioning:

"History, a Presence in Postal-Philatelic Documents" by Grigore Cuculis.

"About the Mail of the Political Detainees in the Tg.Jiu Camp, 1941 and 1944" by Dr. Emil Costin.

"Mail Coach Itineraries and Railway Routes" by Dem. Urma.

"A Famous Journey" by Eugen Panighiant, "The Austrian Posts in Bucharest" by Silviu Dragomir, "The Metric System, a Philatelic Collection of Present Interest" by Mihail Popovici, "Galati in Former Days - as Seen through Illustrated Postcards" by Stefan Andronache, and "Code Indicators of Postal Wagons" by Mihail Ionita Alesu.

Also, "A Postal Tax No Longer in Use: the Mailman's Tax" by Dumitru Passalega, "Two Cases of International Swindle" by Dr. Teodor Cutlic, "The Artificial Satellites Issue with the EXPOZITIA UNIVERSALA BRUXELLES 1958 Overprints" by Mihail Popovici, and "The Study of Postal (Censorship) Markings" by Silviu Dragomir, amongst others.

A CLARIFICATION

to "The River-Post of Romania"

by GABRIEL SASSOWER, London, England

In the Romanian Philatelic Studies No. 2/1979, Dr. L.N. Cristea, within the framework of an article entitled THE RIVER-POST OF ROMANIA, illustrates on page 8, among others, two postcards, in figures 4 and 5 respectively. The missive shown in figure 4 displays two datestamps, namely the GALATI-BRAILA/posthorn type, used by the shuttle service on the river plus another one, the arrival cds of Braila, showing, at the end of its dateline, the abbreviation CSA4 (CURSA 4). The second postcard, in figure 5, again displays the above GALATI-BRAILA postmark plus the arrival cds of Braila, although this time the dateline ends in the Roman numeral III. The author tells us that these numbers (CSA 4 and III) identify the respective trips (services) the steamer effected between the two Danubian ports, on those particular days, in the same way as CURSA I, II, III, IV, incorporated in the earlier BRAILA-GALATZ (and vice-versa) postmarks used to do (Dr. Cristea's figures 2 and 3). I considered this assertion questionable and informed the Editor and Dr. Cristea accordingly in December 1979, my contention being substantiated by photocopies of the following three postal items:

Figure (a). An apparently local postcard, one handstamp reading BRAILA/29 JAN 900, the other, identical with Dr. Cristea's figure 4, showing BRAILA/30 JAN 900 CSA1/posthorn.

Figure (b). Two newspaper wrappers, each cancelled BRAILA/3 SEP 900 C. III/posthorn; this datestamp shows characteristics common to Dr. Cristea's figures 4 and 5, namely, the posthorn and the Roman numeral III respectively. C. stands, of course, for CURSA.

Figure (c). Picture postcard to Sheffield, England; the datestamp, reading BRAILA/17 DEC 04 III, is essentially similar to Dr. Cristea's figure 5, also showing the Roman numeral III.

Furthermore, I mentioned an arrival mark, identical in design with the one figure (a) illustrates, showing SINAIA/17 OCT 904 CSA (?)/posthorn, struck on the reply-half of a Romanian postcard (seen by me in a dealer's stock), sent from London to Sinaia.

Since then, five additional relevant items came my way, one of them illustrated in Figure (d). Postcard to Paris; the datestamps, reading CONSTANTA/24 MAI 901 CSA2/posthorn, are identical with Dr. Cristea's figure 4.

The above examples demonstrate that the abbreviation CSA4 or, respectively, the Roman numeral III at the end of the datelines of the arrival postmarks appearing upon the pieces of mail illustrated by Dr. Cristea, do not represent the fourth or the third journey of the Galati to Braila steamer, as alleged by him; in fact, these datestamps, displaying the abbreviations etc in question, are variants of the well known marks (often used at departure as well), showing, additionally to the name of the post office, the word CURSA followed by a numeral, the latter indicating the first, second, third, etc., distribution of mail on the respective day. Consequently, there is no relationship (in the sense stated by the author) between the GALATI-BRAILA fluvial marking and the arrival cds of Braila. During one of our meetings at "London 1980", Dr. Cristea agreed that this is so.

It is of some importance to bring this rectification to the readers' attention.

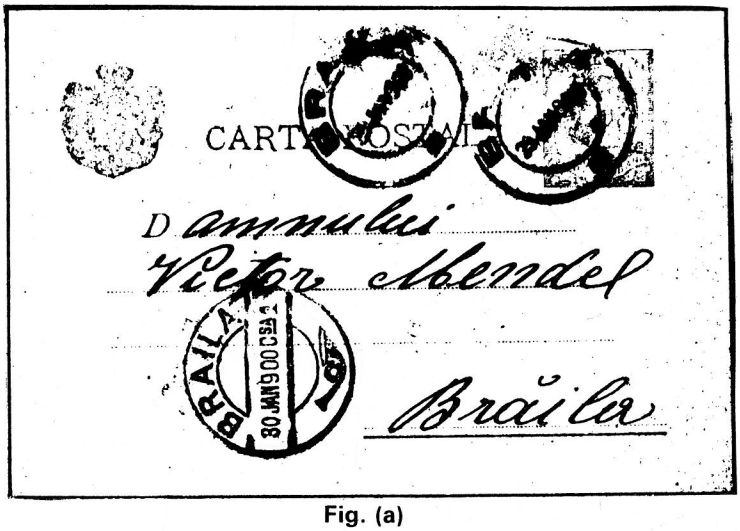


Fig. (a)

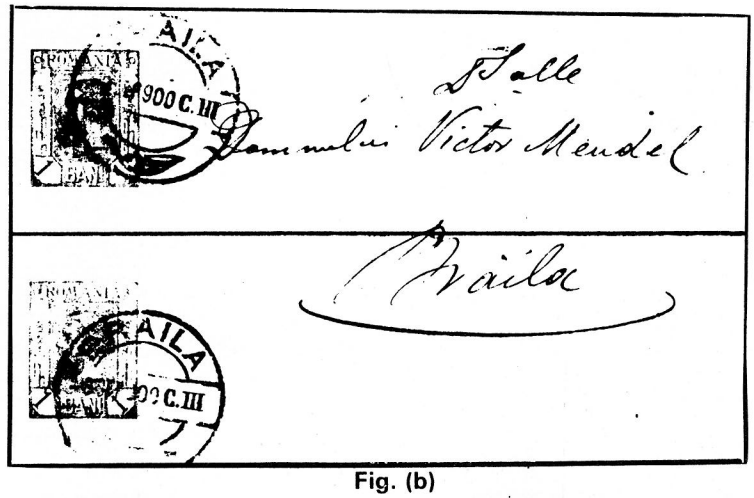


Fig. (b)

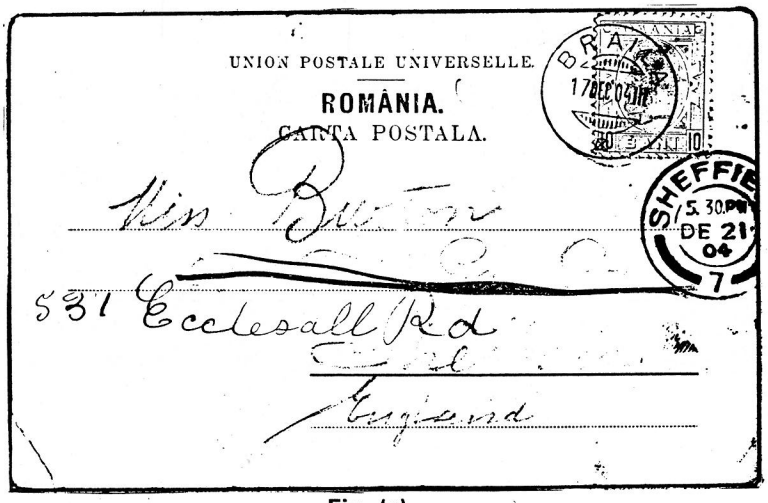


Fig. (c)

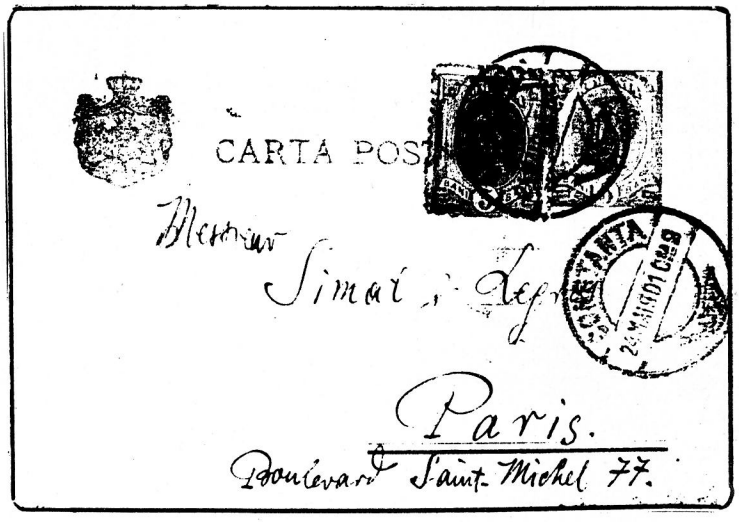
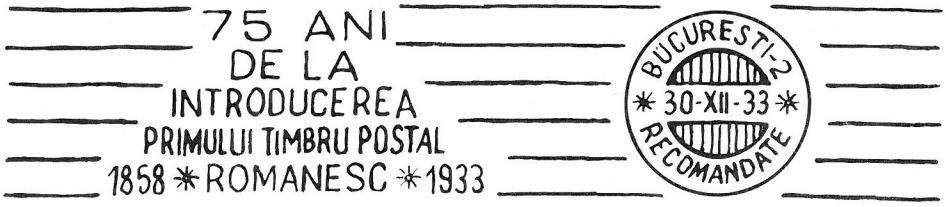


Fig. (d)

The Romanian "Gratuit" (Franchise) Stamp of 1933

by George Pataki



In December 1933, the Postmaster General sent the G.P.O. in Bucharest the following memo:

AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION
OF P.T.T.
Directorate of Operations
Dept. of Operations
To the Manager of the P.T.T. Bucharest
File Number 212.908-1933

According to the provisions of the special agreement concluded between this administration and Mr. Peter Visoianu, attorney at law, Mr. Visoianu will deliver to your post office the books: "75th Anniversary of the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933" for mailing as registered printed matter, to persons and institutions listed in the table drawn up by you and certified by the P.T.T. Administration and the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The required postal fees having been waived according to the agreement, the sender will have to pay for only the 50 Bani postal tax stamp for aviation on each book, to be affixed in accordance with the law creating the national aviation fund. The books will be submitted in envelopes made of thick paper, having a corner card reading: "Administration for the Commemorative Book, 75th Anniversary of the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933, 16b Lascar Catargiu Blvd., Bucharest."

On envelopes containing the books the sender shall affix a green stamp, bearing the inscription, "GRATUIT 1858-1933" and a picture of a mailcoach.

To cancel the packages, a special cancel will be made under the supervision of Mr. Visoianu: "75 Years Since the Introduction of the First Romanian Postage Stamp, 1858-1933."

"Mailing made conform memo order No. 212908/933" may be printed on the envelopes containing the books.

Make sure that the mailing be done quickly and that undistributed as well as returned copies be returned to the sender.

After completion of the mailing, send us one completed mailing checklist and the other two to Mr. Visoianu.

General Director — Eng. Oct. Costacea
Chief of Service — N. Georgescu

This memo explains the unusual circumstances in which the "GRATUIT" (Free of Charge) stamp of 1933 was utilized. The book's first part contained "The Origins of the Romanian Posts" by Constantin Minescu while its second part described all Romanian stamps issued since 1858.

Although not listed by Scott, this stamp is described in the specialized Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 (page 426). It is green on white, unwatermarked paper. Printed by the intaglio method in panes of 25 stamps (5x5), it is imperforate, and comes gummed or ungummed. Not only a stagecoach is depicted but also an airplane. The design measures 42 x 26 mm. Printed on both sides and double-impression varieties are known.

Cancellations consist of a slogan with the text required in the above memo and a date portion reading: "BUCHAREST-2 RECOMANDATE" (Bucharest-2 Registered) 30-XII-33 (Dec. 30, 1933).

GOLD

At **STAMPSHOW 84** (Spokane, Washington) organized by the American Philatelic Society, **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** was awarded a **GOLD MEDAL.** The editor wants to thank the subscribers for their continuous financial support and the researchers for their excellent articles and to share with them this great honor.

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WANTED for postmark study **ROMANIAN** postal cards, postcards and covers used before 1945. Send them with asking price. George Pataki - Editor.

Editors of philatelic magazines and club bulletins are invited to help the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** by publishing reviews.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine **FILATELIA** is available through the editor.

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